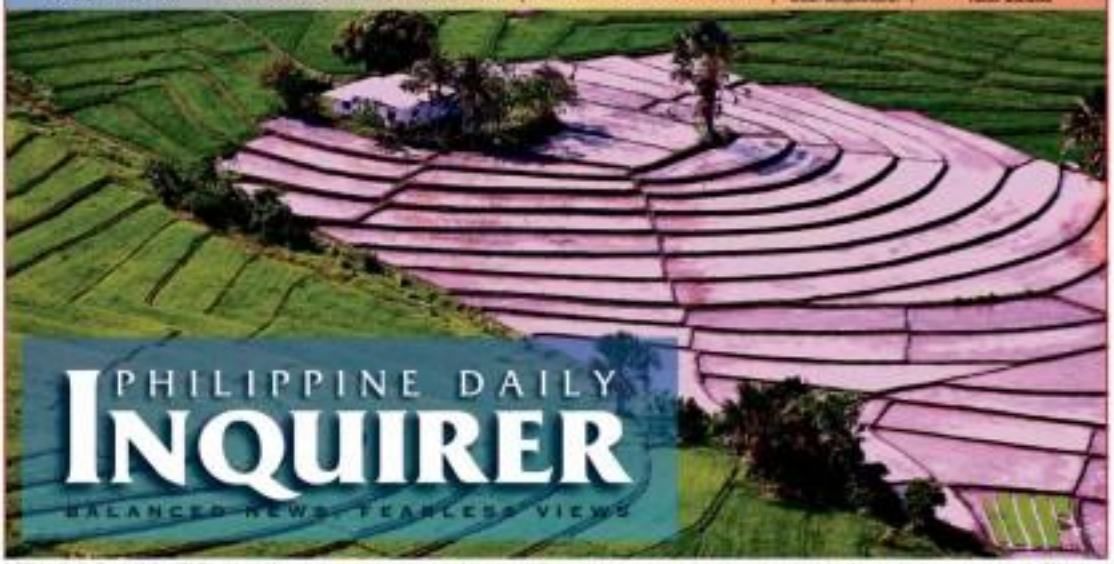
Friday, June 29, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 201 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

NOT WHAT YOU THINK THEY ARE These are not the famed Banaue rice terraces but rice fields in Lucena City in southern Luzon. And the fields are not carved from mountainsides but are, in fact, at ground level. The straight and circular grids of the rice paddies only make them appear so. Nena farmer's house in the middle of the verdant rice field. The swirl of pinkish patterns is land that still has to be planted to rice. EDDY TALAVERA/GUARDIAN.COM.PH

Koko junks UNA ticket

'I cannot in conscience run for senator with Zubiri'

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN THE END, conscience and principle appeared to have prevailed over political expediency for Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

Pimentel yesterday announced that he was quitting the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), saying he could not "in conscience" run with former Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri under the same senatorial ticket in next year's elections.

Pimentel missed the first four years of his six-year term after Zubiri was erroneously declared winner of the 12th and final slot in the 2007 senatorial election.

He was able to assume office only in August last year after Zubiri resigned amid an investigation into alleged election fraud five years ago.

By leaving the UNA coalition, Pimentel said he was now "open for adoption" and would "consider any offer" from other political parties or alliances, including President Aquino's Liberal Party.

"I cannot in conscience run for senator together with Senator Zubiri," he told reporters after a two-hour meeting with former President Joseph Estrada.

"In the campaign, I want to be happy," said Pimentel, who was accompanied in the meeting at Estrada's San Juan City residence by his spiritual adviser, Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz.

ROMD A11

'LP intrigue': Will the real Magsaysay please stand up?

By Christine V. Esguerra

WILL THE "REAL" Magsaysay stand up, and will the "fake" one step aside?

Sen. Franklin Drilon yesterday announced the candidacy of former Sen. Ramon "Jun" Magsaysay Jr. under the Liberal Party (LP) ticket, saying the administration party was fielding the "real" Magsaysay.

Drilon's comment was seen as an attack on Zambales Rep. Mitos "Mitos"

LP INTRIGUE/A11

NEW TERMINAL President Aquino pours champagne over the marker of the new Berth 6 of the Manila International Container Terminal at the Port of Manila on Thursday. Behind him are ICTSI president Enrique K. Razon Jr. and Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas. A priest (inset) blesses the new berth. CNN/JOEL

Mar: Waves, not ship, sank fishing boat

By Christine O. Avendaño in Manila and Gabriel Cardinoza Inquirer Northern Luzon

HERE COMES a different version of the Bolinao "ramming" incident—it may not have happened after all.

From interviews with the Paraguan survivors, the foreign cargo vessel previously thought of as having rammed and sunk the fishing boat ASL Julio might not even have hit it, although it might have sunk the boat because of the big waves it kicked up as it was passing through.

One fisherman was killed, four others were missing while three survived when the fishing boat sank on June 20.

MAR WAVES/A12

China 'relaxed' with no PH ships in shoal

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AS THOUGH it were keeping the peace in fiercely disputed waters, China said the tension in Scarborough Shoal had eased with no Philippine ships in sight to challenge the Chinese vessels maintaining watch in the disputed area.

Hong Lei, spokesperson of China's foreign ministry, told a press conference in Beijing that Chinese government ships and fishing boats "have

CHINA A12

'Dindo' brings heavy rains in N. Luzon; liquor ban up

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE RAINS swelled rivers and triggered landslides in Ilocos Norte, while the governor of Isabela took a step further by preventing storm-related deaths by imposing a liquor ban after noting that drowning cases in past calamities were drunk.

Tropical Storm "Dindo" (international name: Doksuri), packing peak winds of 75 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 90 kph, was expected to make landfall in the Calaoan and Babuyan groups of islands last night and could further intensify, weather officials told reporters in a briefing yesterday afternoon.

The storm was moving west-northwest at 15 kph.

Dindo was expected to swirl out of the Philippine area of responsibility tomorrow morning toward southern China, but would induce monsoon rains over the western parts of Luzon and the Visayas, forecaster Chris Perez said.

Today, Dindo is expected to bring occasional rains over other parts of northern and central Luzon, including Metro Manila.

At 5 p.m. yesterday, the Philippine

DINDO A11

INQUIRER SCHOLARS Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Romualdez (left) welcomes this year's batch of Inquirer scholars: Sunshine Blanco (second from left), Mariaje Ramos, Maria Alexander Acosta, Junaer Enano and Diomar Cabutas. They represent the best and the brightest junior students of the UP College of Mass Communication. Since 1992, a total of 66 journalism students have been beneficiaries of the scholarship program, part of the newspaper's advocacy for youth empowerment. EDDY TORTUGA

DOJ: Gov't has no control over witnesses

By Tonette Orejas Inquirer Central Luzon and Norman Bordadora in Manila

CLARK FREEPORT—Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday sought to distance herself from the curious case of the late Alijol Ampatuan, who could have been either a conspirator in the grisly Maguindanao massacre or a state witness.

De Lima said there had been no information on who this man was or where he could be found and therefore he could not have been placed under the witness protection program (WPP) of the Department of Justice (DJ), as a lawyer of a complainant reported, he was being sought as a potential witness.

"We had not been able to access

DOJ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS

Drilon turns down CJ nomination / A2
Mom, 2 kids killed as truck tilts, dumps sand; pa was guiding driver / A23
Global timekeepers to make a minute last 61 seconds on June 30 / A26
PNP orders total ARMM gun ban during voter registration / A18
DENR padlocks Korean-owned floating resto in Taal Lake / A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Partial (from CWB?) and extended metal on wildfire and cyclone activities in North, Southeast of Apayao, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora, Quezon, Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga, Abra, Benguet, Ilocos Norte, Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Masbate, Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Guimaras, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Compostela Valley, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Sulu, Cotabato City, Special Geographical Area, Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Masbate, Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Guimaras, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Compostela Valley, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Sulu, Cotabato City, Special Geographical Area

Second FRONTPAGE

6/27	2	1	8
6/26	2	1	9
6/25	1	3	1	9

SUERTRES

6/28	6	8	6
6/27	9	3	3
6/26	1	7	3

SIX DIGIT (Thursday)

3 4 9 3 7 7

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

5 10 13 14 25 30

P9,775,958.40

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

11 12 13 29 38 46

P18,650,494.00

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Drilon declines SC nomination

By Christian V. Esguerra and Marlon Ramos

SEN. FRANKLIN Drilon has declined his nomination for Chief Justice, saying "it's more fun in the Senate."

Drilon said he had an interview of leaving the Senate even if he left "humiliated and brokenspirited" by the nomination.

"It is every lawyer's dream even when are sure you're unbiased to be a justice of the Supreme Court and even a Chief Justice," he told a Senate media forum.

"But I have a mandate from over 13.8 million Filipinos who voted for me. I intend to finish my term in the Senate," he said.

Only the day before, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also declined her nomination, citing her impending assignment to sit as a judge at the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands, [for-amateur-said]. President Aquino was not likely to pick her because she voted to acquit accused Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Drilon is one of at least three close Aquino allies to be nominated for the position vacated by Corona. The two others—Interior and Revenue Commissioner Ben Hermoso and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima—have yet to accept or reject their nominations.

'A circus'

Drilon yesterday expressed reservations over the selection process being conducted by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC). With now around 60 nominees, he said the process had become "a circus."

"Seeing those nominated were a mess, a judge who was threatened because he considered Hewitt and duewede (sic). It has become a circus. It's a sad commentary on the process that has evolved. I am not blaming anyone for this. I am just making a comment that it has become a circus, that it has become absurd," he said.

Meanwhile, lawyer Francisco Chavez yesterday urged one of the two lawmakers in the JBC to do the country a service and quit the council to avoid a potential constitutional quarrel.

Chavez insisted that allowing Sen. Francis Escudero and Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. to sit in the JBC at the same time was a violation of the constitutional provision on the composition of the council.

"One of them should resign (so that) this issue would be resolved and we would have a smooth process," he said.

Composition of JBC

The former solicitor general said he would file a petition with the high tribunal questioning the current composition of the JBC. He said he would also ask the court to issue a temporary restraining order to stop the selection process for the 16th successor of Corona.

Chavez insists that the Constitution provides for only seven, not eight, members in the JBC, the constitutional body tasked to screen applicants to top judicial offices.

Having both a senator and a congressman in the JBC "deviates from the intention of the Constitutional Commission to remove the influence of politics in the selection process," he said.

"The purpose of the creation of the JBC is to draw away from the Legislature[al] Committees not Appointments the selection of nominees members. That is why these are ex-officio members," Chavez said.

"All the components of the membership of the council are limited to only one representative from each sector. Yet, there is now an imbalance because among the components, it's only the Congress that is entitled to two members," he said.

He argued that Section 8, Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution plainly stated that only "a representative of the Congress" should be a member of the JBC along with the representatives of the private sector, the academe, the integrated Bar of the Philippines and the retired justices of the Supreme Court.

The secretary of justice and the incumbent Chief Justice sit in the council as ex-officio members.

However, since 2001, the JBC has been allowing the cluster of the Senate and House justice committees to participate in its proceedings, a situation which Chavez described as an "unconstitutional deviation."

'Absurd proposition'

Constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas Jr. has said, however, that while the charter states that the JBC should be made up of only seven members, it has been the practice to have both a senator and a congressman as members.

Bernas, an Ateneo constitutionalist and a member of the committee which drafted the 1987 Constitution, said the lawmakers-members were only entitled to half a vote each or they alternated in voting.

Sen. Chavez, who has been nominated for the Chief Justice post like Bernas, said it would be an "absurd proposition" to let a member of the JBC cast only a half vote.

He also clarified that the controversial question he was raising involved the number of lawmakers in the JBC and not the number of votes allotted to them.

Not loose to change

"I think that opinion (of Bernas) relates the point because the issue is not the number of votes of the representatives of Congress, but the proportion of sending two (lawmakers)," he said.

"It assigns one-half vote for each of the representatives of the Congress would not only violate the votes, but it would [increase] it," Chavez said.

Lawyer Jose Mejia, the representative of the academe to the JBC, said the council was not keen in change its present composition based on the constitutional questions that Chavez has raised.

"We have decided to adopt the current practice. That's what we're accustomed to. The inclination is to continue with the practice unless, of course, directed otherwise by the court," Mejia said.

Backlog ails PhilHealth

By Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning

SOME 250,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and their beneficiaries are unable to enjoy the benefits of membership in the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) because of a three-month encoding backlog at the agency, a recruiter and migration expert claimed yesterday.

"The services given to OFWs by PhilHealth are woefully inadequate especially with the very poor encoding process of PhilHealth's payments made by recruitment agencies at the POEA (Philippine Overseas Employment Administration)," said Lorenz Soriano, president of UNI-8 Recruitment Solutions Inc.

PhilHealth's "very poor services" is one of the reasons why the recruitment industry is "unfortunately" opposed to the plan to increase by 100 percent the annual premium paid by OFWs, said Soriano.

The state insurance firm's plan to double OFW premiums to P2,400 starting next year has run into opposition from the recruitment industry, the OFWs themselves and migrant labor groups.

At least two Facebook pages have been opened against the fee hike. One of them, "Global OFW Voice" already has close to 3,000 followers. An online poster opposing the increase has been shared more than 30,000 times on the social networking site.

"The encoding process by PhilHealth is three to four months late and this results in the OFWs and their dependents being denied benefits and hospitals sometimes their names do not appear in the PhilHealth data bank," said Soriano.

He said the POEA processes 75,000 contracts (new and re-hires) each month and "the backlog is now at 250,000 OFWs who are members of PhilHealth."

"That's [only] a tip of the iceberg ... meaning between March up to July dependents of OFW members of PhilHealth are deprived of benefits and services due to [the]..." Soriano said.

"They should fix this to ensure everything is on line once payment is made," he said.

Leaders from different Makati stakeholders showcase the first ever Makati Leads magazine during the launch of the Makati Happen: Make It Makati campaign, an initiative that aims to solidify the position of Makati as the country's leading city in business, lifestyle, entertainment and culture.

(Photos from L-R: Glenn Salangsang, MACCIA (President; Mister Cy Jupia Land Vice President; Nanita Zamora, Concierge Managing Director; Rosanna de Vera, Makati City Administrator; Monique Lagdameo, Makati Congresswoman; Tony Aquino, Kasi-Land President and CEO; Randy Prieto, Philippine Daily Inquirer President and CEO; Vinnie Lopez, President Makati Tourism Foundation; and Paul Bermudez, President and Publisher Mega Inquirer)

Rio Tower highlights carnival vibe at The Capital Towers

The Rio Tower is making condo living a richer experience at The Capital Towers as the third of Federal Land's upscale residential development along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City promises a carefree and vibrant lifestyle in the tradition of one of the world's most festive cities.

Inspired by Brazil's world-class city of Rio de Janeiro, the Rio Tower replicates the celebratory mood of the famous carnival by giving homeowners and their relatives and friends continuous fun and excitement whether they are inside their luxurious condo unit or in the indoor and outdoor amenities.

"The Rio Tower, just like the Rio Carnival, is a symbol of people coming together and enjoying each other," according to Federal Land president, Alfred V. Ty.

Rio has its own amenities in the 7th floor that guarantee residents and guests zero boredom. The swimming pool and poolside deck brings out the resort-type spirit of Rio Tower by offering relaxation or serving as a party venue.

There's also a function room, which can accommodate a family gathering. Children can have fun all day at their own play area while adults can enjoy billiards and table tennis at the game room. Other first-class amenities are a jogging path, gym, daycare center, commercial arcade and a view deck.

Artist's perspective of Rio Tower's lobby

Artist's rendering of the 2-level retail shopping center

Rio's 22- to 26-square-meter studio unit, 36- to 39-square-meter 1-bedroom unit, and 41- to 42-square-meter 2-bedroom unit are perfectly snug and functional for a startup family or professional. Each Rio unit has a living and dining area and bedroom with laminated wood plank flooring while the kitchen and toilet and bathroom have ceramic tile floors.

At 42 storey's tall, the Rio Tower offers high room residents a view of Antipolo in the east, Manila Bay in the west, northern Manila in the north and the Makati skyline in the south. There are four elevators to serve all residents. The building is also equipped with an automatic fire suppression system, fire detection alarm system, emergency power generator and sewage treatment plant.

Location enhances the Rio Tower's leisure offerings with fun-hopping and gig-searching options in the eighties strip of nearby Tomas Morato and Timog Avenues. Shopaholics also have easy access to the Gateway and Ali Mall in Cubao and the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Everything else is near from hospitals to schools.

The Rio Tower will be the culmination of The Capital Towers, which comprises two other residential buildings perched on podiums: the Athens and Beijing. The Athens Tower has been completed while construction of the Beijing Tower is currently in full swing, and is scheduled for completion by next year. The 35-storey Beijing Tower is also offering bigger units and the innovative my-HOME concept or units that can be convert, as from a home, an office or a shop.

The Rio Tower is scheduled for turnover by mid 2015 and is targeted for completion in 2016, when Rio de Janeiro in Brazil hosts the 31st Olympiad.

For more information about Rio Tower, please call 723-4153 or visit its website at www.thecapitaltowers.com.ph.

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P-Noy not living up to promise on killings, says rights group

By TJ Burgonio

IN THE TWO years that he has been in office, President Aquino has failed to prosecute a single case of extrajudicial killing or enforced disappearance, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday.

The rights watchdog said no one had been arrested in the 14 cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances it had documented since June 2010 and that three "disappeared" people remained missing.

"President Aquino has not lived up to his promise to bring those responsible for serious crimes to justice," Elaine Pearson, HRW Asia deputy director, said in an e-mailed statement. "Concrete measures, rather than mere promises, are needed now."

HRW on Thursday released a video, "Philippines: No Justice for Victims of Enforced Disappearance," in which family members of the "disappeared" call on Mr. Aquino to live up to his promises.

HRW recalled that the President, in his first State of the Nation Address in 2010, said that the July 2010 killing of activist Fernando Baldomero in Aklan was among those "on their way to being resolved."

An arrest warrant was issued for a Lindo Aseron but he has not been arrested and the case was "archived" in January 2011, HRW said.

The rights group also said that an arrest warrant was issued but never served on one of two suspects in the killing of Sonia Quezado, a left-wing activist shot by unidentified men in October 2010 in Negros Oriental.

A relative of Quezado's said the suspect had been seen in the company of soldiers. "Nothing is happening," the HRW quoted the relative as saying. "We're growing tired of waiting for justice."

Correction

IN THE JUNE 25 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page C5 of the Lifestyle Arts & Books section erroneously identified an officer of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. The officer in the photo is Capt. Gerry Reyes—not Vice Admiral Edmund C. Tan.

Readers may send their request for correction of factual errors in writing to the Ang Dyak, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 757 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Alexandra Street, Makati City; fax No. 897-97-93/98; e-mail address: dyak@inquirer.com.ph.

Fewer Pinoys say they're poor, hungry

PEOPLE Filipino families across the country consider themselves poor and hungry, according to a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

According to the survey conducted on May 24-27, an estimated 10.5 million Filipino households, or 11 percent of total households in the country, consider themselves poor, a decline from the 11.1 million households, or 56 percent, recorded in March.

Meanwhile, those who said they were poor in terms of food accounted for 39 percent, which translates to approximately 7.6 million households, a drop from the 46 percent or 9.1 million families recorded in March.

The results of the survey showed that self-rated poverty was down in all locations in the country. It dropped seven points to Mindanao (from 72 percent in March to 65 percent), five points in Metro Manila (from 46 percent to 41 percent), four points to Visayas (from 61 percent to 57 percent, and two points in Luzon, excluding Metro Manila (from 46 percent to 43 percent).

Self-rated poverty was also down by five points in rural areas (from 66 percent to 61 percent in March) while it went from 40 percent to 41 percent in urban areas.

Self-rated food poverty also declined by 11 points to Mindanao (from 64 percent to March to 53 percent in May), five points to Metro Manila (from 30 percent to 25 percent) and six points to Luzon, excluding Metro Manila (from 36 percent to 30 percent). It barely changed in Visayas (from 47 percent to 46 percent). Inquirer Research

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday – June 29, 2012
Peter and Paul, Apostles

1st Reading: Acts 12:1-11

About that time King Herod decided to persecute some members of the Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword, and when he saw how it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

This happened during the festival of the Unleavened Bread. Herod had him seized and thrown into prison with four squads, each of four soldiers, to guard him. He meant to bring him to trial before the people after the Passover feast, but while Peter was kept in prison, the whole Church prayed fervently for him.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound by a double chain, while guards kept watch at the gate of the prison.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood there and a light shone in the prison cell. The angel tapped Peter on the side and woke him saying, "Get up quickly!" At once the chains fell from Peter's wrists. The angel said, "Put on your belt and your sandals." Peter did so, and the angel added, "Now, put on your cloak and follow me."

Peter followed him out, yet he did not realize that what was happening with the angel was real, he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard and then the second and then came to the iron door leading out to the city, which opened of its own accord. They went out and made their way down a narrow alley, when suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter recovered his senses and said, "Now I know that the Lord has sent his angel and has rescued me from Herod's clutches and from all that the Jews had in store for me."

Responsorial Psalm: 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

In the end, I am already poured out as a libation, and the moment of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but all those who have longed for his glorious coming.

But the Lord was at my side, giving me strength to proclaim the Word fully, and for all the pagans hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will save me from all evil, bringing me to his heavenly kingdom. Glory to him for ever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "Some of them say you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church, and not even the gates of the netherworld can withstand it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Reflection:

For some of the scribes, even John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets," in other words, the people are just through the gift of the Spirit, do they recognize that they are part of those names they mentioned are the names of dead people. That is not unusual. Come to think of it, it is whatever is most of the time. We interpret the present not as something new but as something old. I always LOVE movies when I watch it. But for me moment, that heavy scene—the dead poet—means such a transition of events and from one Jesus or "the one who is to come." The history, the disciples. How sad that memory of grace to see Jesus as God's one-liner. It is as though the community of the faithful is built

PH farmers among least mechanized in SE Asia

By Kristine L. Alave

FILIPINO farmers are the equivalent in power of a small donkey that can become overloaded.

That's because the Philippines has one of the lowest rates of mechanized equipment use in Southeast Asia—at half a horsepower (hp) per hectare (hp/ha), according to newly installed Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) Executive Director Rex Bingabing.

"At 'horse' to mean, that's equivalent to one small electric fan," said Bingabing in an interview yesterday.

Other agricultural countries in the region like Vietnam and Thailand—both of which export rice—have a much higher mechanization rate at 2 hp/ha. Fully industrialized Japan sits at 7 hp/ha, while developed South Korea recorded 6 hp/ha.

This translates to more efficient work, higher productivity and greater yield for their farms, Bingabing pointed out.

The PhilMech director said Filipino farmers rely heavily on manual labor in the land preparation, planting and harvest stages. Drying and milling machines used post-harvest are often inefficient, leading to huge rice losses, he said.

Bingabing said that 16 percent of the total rice output was lost due to inefficient farming methods and equipment.

"If we can reduce that to single digits, we won't have to import rice," he said. "If we do that, we can get a net gain of 6 percent. That would be an additional yield without changing much in production," Bingabing said.

President Aquino wants the Philippines to be self-sufficient in rice by 2013. Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said the government will not import rice after that year. This year, the rice importation is only 500,000 MT.

Bingabing said many Filipino farmers did not have the money to buy hand tractors and other small farm equipment. The Department of Agriculture (DA), he said, was addressing this lack with a credit facility for the farmers.

Fear of displacement

The farmers are also reluctant to mechanize because they fear losing work. "They feel that they will be displaced. But if they look at the bigger picture, they will realize that if they can do so half a day or so, they would have a full day they can do other jobs," Bingabing said.

Bingabing said PhilMech, a DA-attached agency, aims to increase the use of mechanized equipment so Filipino farms to match the rates of Thailand and Vietnam.

PhilMech, he said, will focus on developing small-scale farm machinery that will help farmers add value to their produce and avoid waste at the same time.

He observed that many farmers allowed mung beans to be wasted since local demand of excess production or because traders were not willing to pay better prices.

"I have observed how many corn farmers are left with harvests that they cannot sell and those will deteriorate if not processed into value-added products like flour. Also, tomato farmers who have excess production can process their stocks of harvests into tomato paste or dried tomatoes," Bingabing said.

As of April, PhilMech was ahead of its schedule in distributing different farm equipment to qualified farmers' organizations. It has given out 644 hand tractors, 33 four-wheel tractors, 272 palay threshers, 14 single-pass rice mills, 326 rice dryers-coolers and 90 rice reapers.

Palace vows assistance to Ford workers

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday vowed to assist workers who will be displaced by the expected shutdown of Ford's manufacturing operations in the country.

Edwin Lacierda, President Aquino's spokesperson, said the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has fastened a quick response team to ensure the affected employees get their full separation benefits.

Lacierda said the government would also be helping the affected employees since Asean if the manufacturing stoppage pushes through.

"If they wish to work in the same industry, we will be looking for opportunities for them. If they wish to look for another industry and that would require retraining of their skills, Tesda will be there to provide the retraining," Lacierda said in yesterday's news briefing in Malacañang.

Said, also, if someone some of them would receive a substantial or hefty separation benefit and then would wish to go into business, the Department of Trade and Industry would be there to help them in developing their entrepreneurial skills," he added.

Lacierda, nonetheless, said the DOLE has yet to receive a notice of closure from Ford, whose executives said would continue its sales dealerships in the country even after the seal of its manufacturing operations.

"Since we've been informed we already are making plans ahead of time, ahead of the notice of closure to ensure that we can assist the potentially displaced employees," Lacierda said.

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LG Watch to keep local execs honest

By DJ Yap

HOW THE public can keep a close watch on government officials.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Wednesday launched the Local Governance Watch or LG Watch, a tool that will allow civil society organizations to keep track of the performance of local executives.

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo said LG Watch will serve as "a social accountability mechanism that will encourage greater civil society participation in local governance."

"Today, collaboration is the call of the times. The government acknowledges that it cannot do its job better, faster and more efficiently with the help of civil society," Robredo said at the launch of the project at Gateway Business Quezon City.

"Through LG Watch, the department will be actively collaborating with CSOs (civil society organizations) in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of local government programs and projects," he added.

No spy

But Robredo said governors and mayors should not be threatened by the word "watch" in the project.

"The goal is not to spy or pry into the affairs of the local government, but to make civil society governments empowered, to give them the chance to be heard and participate in good governance," he said.

Ambassador Eid Carbrink, head of the delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, said the European Union helped in the conception and design of LG Watch through a contribution of P1.5 million.

New perspectives

"The LG Watch is opening new perspectives for the future," Ledesma said.

"It will put in the hands of civil society a very useful set of tools that will allow organized citizens to engage with local authorities in a more systematic and structured way in order to make them more transparent, accountable and efficient," he added.

Robredo signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with two groups, the People Power Volunteers for Reform, and the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance, laying out guidelines for the implementation of LG Watch.

He said LG Watch was primarily aimed at facilitating systematic and sustained engagement of CSOs in local public administration to enhance transparency and accountability in the delivery of social services and implementation of government projects.

"The end goal (here is to) make LGUs more responsive and efficient because they now have the CSOs as active partners in development," he said.

Under the agreement, LG Watch shall have three major components: the Citizens' Satisfaction Index System (CSIS); Civil Society Participation Fund (CSPF); and the Capacity Development for Civil Society Organizations (CDCO), said DILG Assistant Secretary and Bureau of Local Government Supervision Director Rolando Acosta.

The CSIS will generate feedback on the local government's performance on service delivery and serve as a third-party assessor of the results of the DILG's Local Governance Performance Management System, a self-assessment tool on the key areas of local governance.

The CSPF, on the other hand, will involve a mechanism that provides incentives to CSOs that are actively engaging with LGUs in local development, while the CDCO will strengthen the knowledge and skills of CSOs in performing their roles as partners of government in various governance processes.

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PAGCOR SCHOOL DONATION

Cristina L. Magalad Jr. chair and CEO of the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. (fourth from left), and Education Secretary Armin Luistro (fifth from left) lead the ribbon-cutting of the new school building donated by Pagcor to Sumpaloc Elementary School in Tuna, Naval. Yesterday's event was also attended by (from left) Board Member Emigdio Tanjuatco Jr., Dapdi School District Superintendent Carlito Reclahet, Pagcor Director Jose Tesdaldo and officials of Sumpaloc Elementary School. The five-classroom, single-story building (top photo) is intended to help alleviate the country's perennial classroom shortage.

The donation is part of the "Pagsasaayos Diyan sa Bibo Natin" project of Pagcor and the Department of Education, which got a P1-billion funding from the state-owned gaming firm for the construction of 1,000 classrooms in public elementary and secondary schools nationwide. The district of Naval, Biliran, has a total shortage of 66 classrooms—17 in public elementary schools and 51 in public high schools.

Luisita farmers want original list of beneficiaries

By Kristine L. Alave

A MILITANT farmers' group yesterday demanded that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) release the original list of farmer-beneficiaries of the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and 200 farmers who held a vigil at the Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang yesterday said they learned that a verification process being carried out by the DAR was an attempt by the Cojuangco owners to evade the distribution of their 4,300-hectare sugarcane estate under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

President Aquino is a member of the Cojuangco clan.

KMP deputy secretary general Willy Machelin said the verification process to determine the 6,300 farmer-beneficiaries and their heirs aims to sow disunity and confusion among Hacienda Luisita farmers.

"Under the guise of so-called 'verification process,' the DAR, with the blessings of no less than President Aquino, is maneuvering to evade land distribution," he said.

"The DAR's highly questionable verification process is all in accordance with the Cojuangcos' move to bloat the number of beneficiaries, further reduce the size of land for distribution, sow confusion and disunity among farmworkers, and eventually get their dummies and relatives as so-called beneficiaries," Machelin said.

The group demanded that the DAR produce the 1989 list of beneficiaries that had served as the Hacienda Luisita management's basis for distributing stock certificates under the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme.

According to reports, the DAR has already interviewed 8,400 farmworkers nationally to validate those who signed the November 1989 SDO. In Hacienda Luisita and Balatoc, the DAR has interviewed more than 6,000 potential beneficiaries.

The names of Hacienda Luisita farmers who were interviewed will be checked against the 1989 list of farmer-beneficiaries, which became the basis for the implementation of the SDO in the estate.

Under the 1989 scheme, the 6,200 beneficiaries agreed to accept company stocks instead of land.

Early this year, the Supreme Court ruled that the SDO was unconstitutional and against the spirit of CARP as it did not give control of the land to the farmers.

The high court's decision gave the DAR the go-signal to distribute a 4,300-hectare chunk of the sugar estate to the farmers who have worked on it for generations.

DOJ: Government has no control over witnesses

From page A1

[Aldin] I," De Lima told reporters after she spoke at the convention of the General Santos chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

"We can only be answerable, I'm talking of the [DOJ] and [the WPP] office, for those placed under the WPP," she said. "We cannot force those who don't want to cooperate."

The murder of six people—three witnesses and three relatives of other witnesses—in connection with the case has alarmed her department, De Lima said.

Nena Santos, counsel of Sen. Ahmad Mangudadatu, whose wife was among the 57 people slaughtered in Maguindanao on Nov. 23, 2009, said that Majid was shot in the Maguindanao provincial capitol of Shariff Aguak on Feb. 12 but his death was only recently confirmed after police authorities positively identified him.

Majid's name surfaced in July last year when the late Ismael Abid Bing, a former militiaman, testified in the trial of more than 100 people led by former Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. and members of his clan charged with the murders. Bing then said that Majid had ordered him to bring 20 gunmen to the massacre site on the day of the killings.

Majid was described as a distant relative of the Ampatuan family.

Bing himself went missing in March after he got out of the WPP. Police recently confirmed his murder, Santos said.

De Lima described Bing as a witness "who did not want to be covered by the WPP for some reasons." There include restrictions in movement.

"We are strict in the WPP admission on cutoff witnesses. They're our responsibility," she said.

Palace appeal

"I don't think you can blame [the] government," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday during a news briefing when asked if any government official should be held liable for the killings of witnesses.

"You know, it's embarrassment that it happened and I certainly condole with the family of the murdered victim but again the government offered security to these people," Lacierda said.

He recalled that relatives of the massacre victims had requested security during a meeting with President Aquino. He said the President personally assured them of their security and those of the witnesses.

"We are urging all witnesses to accept the security offer," Lacierda said. "Those who have been provided security are still alive."

He also said Malacañang was urging acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio to "find a way to hasten the Ampatuan massacre case without sacrificing due process."

Lacierda said that Malacañang had urged a Supreme Court justice to be tried after noting that prosecutor had drafted to get bogged down in technicalities.

"That's why we are asking the Supreme Court, can you find a way to expedite? Can you redirect the handling judge to make certain that this case moves at the faster pace rather than the pace where it is right now?" Lacierda said. "[While] the pace of this case can go faster, we can ensure also the safety of the witnesses."

Faulty justice

Also yesterday, several Catholic bishops expressed sadness over the killing of witnesses in the Maguindanao massacre case and pushed for better protection of witnesses.

Speaking over Church-run Radio Veritas, Archbishop Romulo Arguelles of Lipa, Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez and Bishop Pedro Arigo of Tabaco, all said the elimination of the witnesses was indicative of the faulty justice in the country.

"Our authorities are weak, our justice system is weak. What do we expect?" Gutierrez said. With a report from Jerome Aning

What price wife's loss? ₱100M, says Mangudadatu

By Julie M. Aurelio

JUSTICE DELAYED Maguindanao Gov. Ismael "Toto" Mangudadatu expresses frustration over the slow movement of the Maguindanao massacre case at a Quezon City court on Thursday. YOSHIKO KAWAGUCHI

MAGUINDANAO Gov. Ismael Mangudadatu would rather see those responsible for the killing of his wife meted out the death penalty, but when asked to cancel yesterday what price he would put for the suffering it had caused him, he mentioned ₱100 million as the very least.

"My children and I were through so much because of what happened," Mangudadatu said at the resumption of his testimony in the trial of members of the once powerful Ampatuan clan for the Maguindanao massacre on Nov. 23, 2009.

When asked by prosecutor Princess Jessie Quimoyog how much he was seeking in moral damages, Mangudadatu said his wish was for the accused in the case the electric chair.

But Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of the Regional Trial Court Branch 221 in Quezon City said the governor's reply was unresponsive to the question.

Mangudadatu continued his testimony yesterday in his capacity as the husband of Genalyn, one of his many female relatives killed in the massacre of 57 people, including 31 journalists.

Recalling anguish

The Maguindanao governor did not see his wife on Nov. 19, 2009, and last talked to her on the day of the massacre when Genalyn called him for help. The next time he saw her was at a funeral parlor.

"I could imagine how they were beaten, shot, stabbed in the back, how she was shot in the private part, mouth, breast, hands. I can imagine how she pleaded for mercy," Mangudadatu told the court, recalling his anguish.

So much was his grief that he wanted to disappear too, he said.

Genalyn was buried on Nov. 25, with funeral expenses reaching at least ₱2 million. Mangudadatu also cited his expenses in prosecuting the case, which included transportation and accommodation in Manila for the actual damages.

After the burial, Mangudadatu, then the vice mayor of Buluan town, filed the complaint against the Ampatuans whom he suspected of being behind the massacre.

The convoy of supporters and journalists was blocked by almost a hundred gunmen while on the way to the Mangudadatu's certificate of candidacy for governor, chief hanging the leadership of the Ampatuans in Maguindanao.

Mangudadatu said such crimes should never happen in a free democracy.

"You are just running for public office, why should you be killed? They were just media covering the event, why should they be killed?" he asked.

A few days after the massacre, Mangudadatu saw Andal Ampatuan Jr., the alleged mastermind.

"When I saw him, I really wanted to punch him, because of the pain and grief that I felt," Mangudadatu said.

The governor will be recalled as the witness stand on July 19 for cross-examination by the defense panel.

Rights victims blame gov't for NY loss

By TJ Burgonio

LAWYERS of the Marcos human rights victims are blaming the Aquino government for the dismissal by a New York court of their claim on a $353-million chunk of the ill-gotten assets of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Co-counsel Paul Hastings Jr. said it was "frustrating" that the government has blocked the recovery of the money stashed in a secret account in Merrill Lynch New York while it couldn't itself get legal hold of the asset.

"The present government, as the past ones, had argued against the interest of the victims asserting the golden-goose doctrine of sovereign immunity," Hastings said in recent statements with lawyer Robert Swift.

The New York court cited a competing claim by the Philippine government that had been upheld by the Philippine Supreme Court as a ground for the dismissal of the claim by the rights abuse victims.

It said then the New York state courts "should not intercede" in a case that remains within the jurisdiction of Philippine national sovereignty.

Swift accused the Aquino administration of "sharing" the Arroyo administration's alleged "reinforcement to the victims of Marcos' cruelty."

"It has never compensated the victims and spends millions of dollars on lawyers to prevent the victims from receiving compensation. Many of these victims are now old and in poor health. One is left to wonder whether this administration has a moral compass," Swift said.

Israeli firm, PH partner win PNP gun deal

By DJ Yap

THE JOINT venture between a local company and an Israeli arms manufacturer won the bid to supply just under 60,000 pistols to the Philippine National Police, for which the PNP was prepared to pay almost P1.2 billion.

Filipino firm R. Espinelli and the Israel Weapons Industry submitted the lowest bid of P974 million, which would save the government P230 million.

But the bid was questioned by a supermarket of a losing bidder, Rakenrod Trading, which is an exclusive importer of Czech firm, who pointed out problems in the documents Espinelli submitted, including a translation of foreign documents that was not certified by Israel's embassy in the Philippines.

The bidding rules state that all translations of foreign language documents must be certified by the embassy concerned in the Philippines.

After a long deliberation, the PNP's bids and awards committee (BAC) decided to allow the opening of Espinelli's bid and directed Rakenrod to put in objections in writing.

The second lowest bid was submitted by Tom Trade, in a joint venture with Dusk Asia Pacific, at P990 million.

Rakenrod submitted the third lowest bid at P1.06 billion, while Astra Corp. of the Philippines came in fourth with P1.197 billion.

The public bidding for the firearms deal started at 2 p.m. in the main conference room of the PNP headquarters at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Two other companies that submitted bids were disqualified for not complying with a requirement to submit sample firearms to the BAC a day before the public bidding.

The gun procurement, one of the biggest by the PNP in recent years, is seen to fill 100 percent of the PNP's short firearms requirement. Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo had pointed out that only 60 percent of all policemen had a short firearm issued until 2011.

Bukas ang Pag-IBIG Housing Operations sa HUNYO 30, 2012

Ito ang huling araw ng pagtanggap ng applications sa Penalty Condonation para sa mga delinkwenteng housing loan borrowers.

Pinapayuhan ang mga borrowers na magtungo sa 2nd floor ng JELP Business Solutions Building, 409 Shaw Boulevard, Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. Bukas ang aming tanggapan mula 8:00am hanggang 5:00pm.

Para sa mga katanungan, tumawag sa Pag-IBIG Call Center sa telepono bilang 7244244.

Koko Pimentel junks UNA senatorial ticket

From page A1

Pimentel said he wanted to send the message that political alliances "should be based on principles" or at least, "common sense."

In a statement sent from abroad, Zubiri expressed regret over Pimentel's decision.

"Today is a sad day for the people of Visayas and Mindanao whose leaders have lowered the bar for unity among us both to have more representation for the region," Zubiri said. "I truly wanted us to mend our differences for the sake of more representation for the region."

Pimentel made it clear that he was staying with Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), of which he is the party president. PDP-Laban combined with Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) to form UNA.

Can't be bargained

In a statement, Pimentel's allies, former Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., said that even in politics, principles could not be bargained away for the sake of political expediency.

"By leaving made to be in the same ticket with Miga Zubiri, who he had charged with cheating him of victory. In the electoral process, he had subsequently proven that there was absolute necessity to bargain principles, especially for those just who stand in the same platform or even may be in the same ticket and tell the people, 'Ladies and gentlemen, please elect me. I would choose and honest elections. I'm a true leader for all. Search previous more. And you vote for me but you also vote for my colleagues here,'" the elder Pimentel said.

He admitted that his son was taking a risk by leaving UNA.

"There is a price to it, naturally. You don't just ignore things

BINAY: We'll see where I get back.

ESTRADA: Arrogant Koko's overdrama.

ZUBIRI: Sad day for people of Visayas, Mindanao (lamenting for unity)

ENRILE: That's a personal decision. I wish him the best.

"SOMETIMES, you cannot have it all. I'm taking a risk leaving UNA. I want to campaign with a happy heart," says Koko Pimentel, answering questions from the media after his announced his decision.

who is a powerful vote getter and has the means to spread his message," he said.

"But on the other hand, there is also, I think, a huge segment of the electorate which is looking for principled politics. So if you lose votes from the sector who believes that politics is just political gain, you will also gain from the thinking sector."

Asset to any party

Reho Pimentel said he presumed Estrada that his move would not "mess up" the coalition. "Definitely there'll not be a loser. This is my decision," he said.

Both Estrada and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said they were saddened by Pimentel's decision. Vice President Jejomar Binay was not immediately informed of the development as UNA bosses he was still abroad.

During the three senior UNA leaders, Estrada, Enrile and Binay said the ghosts in the coalition.

"I'm saddened because we were out of our way to bring them (Pimentel and Zubiri) together, their ticket has completed, it's finished and the two must be apart," Estrada said in a statement.

Enrile said he would be an asset to any political party. He's not just a podium to me. He's intelligent, one of the most qualified senators. That's why I'm sad."

All best wishes

Enrile, a senior PMP leader, said he would still support Pimentel's bid despite the senator's decision to quit the coalition.

"I will help you," he replied when Pimentel sought his help in the 2013 elections during a break at a committee hearing yesterday.

"I'm sad that he is leaving us in UNA. He would have been a worthy member of our ticket. But that's a personal decision but I'm happy for him and I wish him the best," Enrile later told reporters.

"If, as I said, he would ask for my support, I would help him just as much as I would the others without discounting my obligations to my party and my coalition."

Pimentel's decision ended months of uncertainty on whether he could contest with Zubiri under the same ticket.

Pimentel first broke the news on Saturday, who had been seeking a meeting with him to discuss the problem with Zubiri.

The meeting finally took place at 10 a.m. yesterday and Pimentel broke the ice by asking for forgiveness from Estrada, his wedding godfather. "Nothing personal in this."

"You now have to, I cannot run for senator under UNA while Zubiri is there. And since Zubiri is there, I regret that I will not accept my nomination [as an UNA candidate]," the senator said.

Leaving a risk

In an interview with reporters later at the Senate, Pimentel said his decision came after he consulted his party mates, including his father who is also among the founders of PDP-Laban.

Pimentel admitted that he was taking a "risk" by leaving UNA and running under PDP-Laban, a relatively small political party could it organized national prominence with Binay's name from behind victory in 2013).

"My chances of winning are better if I am endorsed by President Estrada, Vice President Binay and Senate President Enrile. But Dad's Mr. Consistency, you cannot have it all. We are willing to take the risk," he said. "I want to campaign with a happy heart."

Estrada earlier warned Pimentel about the possibility of losing should he leave UNA. He said his endorsement, combined with that of Enrile's and Binay's, would be worthwhile that of President Aquino's.

Told that Pimentel was now "open for adoption," Estrada said the senator had told him that he would "run as an independent under PDP-Laban." "He was his answer to me," the former President recalled.

What if Pimentel ended up running under Sh. Aquino's LP? "It's up to him. That's his call," Estrada said.

DI AZIZA: Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

MAY Hilma H. Magsaysay

'LP intrigue': Will the real Magsaysay please stand up?

From page A1

Magsaysay, who earlier announced that she was running in next year's senatorial race under the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay.

"If that [Magsaysay] ran candidate, is Ramon Magsaysay Jr.," Briton said in the weekly Kapihan sa Senado media forum.

But Briton backtracked when asked whether he was indicating that the Zambales representative was not a "real" Magsaysay. "I'm not saying that. You're covering [Magsaysay], he told one reporter in jest.

True, tested

According to Briton, the congressional race is expected to be one of heavy campaigning between Vice Magsaysay, while the 74-year-old LP candidate is the son of former President Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash in 1957.

"The true Magsaysay is tested. Magsaysay is my son," he said, referring to the campaign slogan of one of the country's most revered Presidents.

Milton Magsaysay, 66, took office as Subic mayor in 2007.

"You know fact that they're trying to get Jun Magsaysay to run against my son, I don't care. I have no issue about my candidacy," she told the reporter in a phone interview. "But my question is, Has he agreed to run? Until I heard it straight from him, it remains a Liberal Party intrigue."

The congresswoman said she had no problem running against a fellow Magsaysay in 2013. "Both of us are qualified and accomplished," she said.

Mar to stay in Cabinet

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, a senior leader of UNA, downplayed the issue of a "real" or "fake" Magsaysay.

"I don't know if there is a fake Magsaysay and a real Magsaysay. All I know is Mitos Magsaysay. It's a Magsaysay," he said in Filipino in an interview.

Enrile said Sec. Paquito Ochoa is planning its senatorial slate. But this week, he confirmed that Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas—who said he thinks in the 2013 elections—would not join the race.

"Roxas will stay in the Cabinet," he said.

So far, Briton said the LP lineup included Aurora Rep. Sonny Angara, and former Representatives Jose Villarama, Rina Hontiveros, and Rufus Rodriguez.

Drilon said that the slate would also include those incumbent senators, but declined to name them.

Asked if the LP would field a full senatorial slate, Drilon said his party would be open to coalitions.

"There are a lot of variants in this country. We still have coalitions," he said. "But personally, I am not in favor of joint candidacies. It's either they are with us or [not with us]."

Drilon described UNA as "formidable," consisting of "very qualified people."

China 'relaxed' with no PH ships in shoal

From page A1

maintained jurisdiction and vigilance" in the decade...limited 230 kilometers off Zambales in the Panatag Shoal area (South China Sea)—and that "the current situation ... tends to be relaxed in general."

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario on Monday claimed the Chinese fishing boats that left the shoal on Wednesday did not include any Chinese vessels, contrary to earlier claims by a Philippine Navy reconnaissance plane sighted 21 Chinese fishing boats—six large vessels and 15 dinghies—in the lagoon.

Hong reiterated at the same time that Beijing had "indisputable sovereignty" over the Spratly group of islands, also in the West Philippine Sea, and its adjacent waters.

Hong urged Manila to "refrain from taking any action that may complicate and magnify the dispute and affect peace and stability in the South China Sea."

Hong said "the Chinese side will continue to maintain administration and vigilance over Huangyan Island waters."

No commitment

China refers to Scarborough Shoal as Huangyan Island while the Philippines refers to the area either as Bajo de Masinloc or Panatag Shoal.

Zhang Hua, spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Makati City earlier told the Inquirer that China had no immediate plans of pulling out its ships from the shoal.

In a text message, Zhang, also deputy chief of the embassy's political section, said his government had not expressed any intention of withdrawing its service ships from the area.

"There is no such commitment from China," Zhang said.

On rotation

But the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Monday that China had made good its promise and pulled out the 30-plus Chinese fishing boats operating in the shoal.

"Based on coordination between the Philippines and China, as of now there are no Chinese vessels in the area," Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario (center) said in a statement.

He did not elaborate. The statement includes foreign reporters from attending its monthly briefings.

Vietnam protests

Vietnam earlier protested a two-fold announcement by a Chinese state oil company, the China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC), that it was opening nine oil and gas lots for international bidders, in areas overlapping with existing Vietnamese exploration blocks.

Luong Thanh Nghi, spokesperson of Vietnam's foreign ministry said the lots being offered by China lay entirely in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. Luong said in a statement posted on Sunday on the ministry's website that China's move was illegal and the bidding should cease immediately.

China is involved in a long-running dispute with Vietnam and the Philippines about ownership of the West Philippine Sea and its myriad, mostly uninhabited, islands and atolls. Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei also have claims.

Growing assertiveness

Last week China said it "vehemently opposed" a Vietnamese law asserting sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly Islands, which straddle key shipping lanes thought to contain offshore energy reserves.

The row came days after an outing in a mothballing standoff between China and the Philippines, but about the persistent cycle of territorial frictions triggered by what analysts say is China's growing assertiveness in the area.

The West Philippine Sea is potentially the biggest flashpoint for confrontation in Asia, and tensions have risen since the United States redeployed a policy last year to reinforce its influence in the region.

Reuters

China deploys combat patrols in Spratlys

BEIJING—China has begun combat-ready patrols in the waters around a disputed group of islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), the defense ministry said on Thursday, the latest escalation in tensions over the potentially resource-rich area.

Asked what China would do in response to Vietnamese oil patrols over the Spratly Islands, the defense ministry's spokesperson, Geng Yansheng, said Beijing would "resolutely oppose any militarily provocative behavior."

"In order to protect national sovereignty and our security and development interests, the Chinese military has already set up a combat-ready patrol system in our water and control," he said.

"The Chinese military's resolve and will to defend territorial sovereignty and protect our maritime rights and interests is firm and unshakable," Geng added, according to a transcript posted on the ministry's website (mod.gov.cn).

He did not elaborate. The ministry includes foreign reporters from attending its monthly briefings.

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Reuters

The withdrawal of a Philippine Coast Guard search-and-rescue ship, sent to the location of Fidelino and Aquaco Resources survey ship ended more than two months of standoff in the shoal, leaving Chinese vessels alone in the area.

President Aquino ordered the two ships to the small atoll after Chinese vessels blocked the shoal, the DFA insisted that talks were going on for the withdrawal of the Chinese vessels.

Different maps

The dispute began on April 8 after Chinese vessels blocked Philippine patrol ships trying to arrest Chinese fishermen who were caught poaching shells and endangered species of turtle and corals in the the shoal.

Although a signatory to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), Beijing refuses to recognize the Philippine exclusive economic zone, claiming ancient maps prove China owns the shoal and all of the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippines has old maps of its own dating back to the Spanish times backing its claim over the shoal.

Tensions, longstanding disputes involving the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei straddle busy sea lanes that are believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits. Many fear the disputes could spark a serious conflict.

With a report from AP

US to stress partnership with China

WASHINGTON—The United States will stress "engagement and cooperation" with China at security talks next month to help boost mistrust between the two navies over a string of tense encounters in the Asia-Pacific region, a senior US official said on Wednesday.

Kurt Campbell, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said the United States and China would unveil new cooperative initiatives at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Regional Forum in Cambodia.

The two powers will announce plans to work together on humanitarian disaster relief and wildlife protection—as controversial projects that would "set strong demonstration that we want to work with China," Campbell told the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

"We will have areas of differences, we will have areas where we will naturally compete, but it will be important to send a very clear message ... that we want to build a strong, durable partnership with China," he added.

The 2012 annual gathering in Phnom Penh comes two years after fireworks erupted between the United States and China at the Hanoi gathering of the 27-member South Regional Forum.

In 2010, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton voiced support for Asean's efforts at finding a multilateral solution to disputes over conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) that pit several Southeast Asian states against China.

China's overtures drew a positive response from several Southeast Asian countries, prompting comments against "small countries" by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

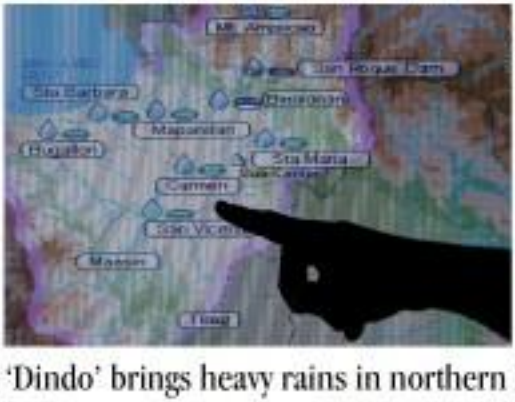
To quell fears

China's strident assertion of its territorial claims, underscored by a series of incidents between Chinese ships and those of Vietnam and the Philippines, drove them considerably to seek closer security ties with the United States.

Campbell did not give details on the new US-China initiatives, calling them products of a multiyear effort by Washington and Beijing that he suggested would help quell Southeast Asian concerns' fears that they may get caught between any struggle for power and influence in the region.

Campbell noted that Asean states and China were working on a code of conduct governing the West Philippine Sea to resolve disputes over the disputed waters. The United States is not a party to the dispute or the code of conduct talks.

The United States will site forces in plans to ease economic sanctions on Burma (Myanmar) in response to recent political reforms in that long-isolated member of Asean, Campbell said. Reuters



RAINFALL map shows the places in Bacon-Manito urban rising from Tropical Storm "Dindo" are expected to fall as of noon Thursday.

'Dindo' brings heavy rains in northern Luzon

From page A1

tmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) raised Storm Signal No. 2 in Cagayan, the Calayans, Babuyan and Batanes island groups, Ilocos and Batanes.

Storm Signal No. 1 was hoisted in Abra, Kalinga, Ifugao, Ilocos Sur, Ilo Province, Pangasinan, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

Classes in private and public preschools and elementary schools were canceled in the Ilocos, Cordillera and Cagayan Valley regions.

Liquor ban

In Isabela, Gov. Faustino Jr. El directed village officials to limit the implementation of the liquor ban and ensure observance by residents to avoid fines or possible imprisonment.

Water level in the Magat River in Ramon town was recorded at 183.60 meters above sea level (masl), still below the critical 193 masl.

In Ilocos Norte, town swelled in Bangui town, landslides occurred in Pagudpud town and flash floods hit Laoag City and the towns of Bacarra, San Nicolas and Pasuquin town.

Two fishermen were reported missing off Barangay La Paz in Laoag but were able to reach shore yesterday afternoon.

Larry Jaramillo and Rony Pasion were fishing with a group at the La Paz Bay at 3:30 a.m., but they did not return to shore until 1:30 p.m., according to the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

No river travel

In Cagayan, officials monitoring boats and barges traveling along the Cagayan River in Lallo town stopped river travel due to bad weather and an expected rise in the river's water level.

Cadio Maldonring said a contractor, PD Interior Junior Construction, suspended forty activities starting at 9 a.m.

Charlie Salvador, a member of Cagayan's Rescue 20, said classes in the town were suspended because many parents were afraid to let their children travel to school.

Rock slides threat

In the Cordillera, local officials asked people in the upland villagers to move away if hillside mountain roads that are vulnerable to rock slides during strong rains.

The region experienced light to moderate rains yesterday morning.

Workers of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have been stationed near major mountain roads, while small-scale mining operations were suspended in Benguet, said the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

At 8 a.m., a landslide stalled traffic along the Kabayan-Baguio-Marcos Road, the OCD reported.

The DPWH also suspended repair work on the Sabangan bridge in Mt. Province, which is closed to traffic.

While the three major routes to and from Baguio City were open to vehicles despite the rains, officials asked motorists to use Marcos Highway instead of Kennon Road.

Naguilian Road was open to all types of vehicles going to and coming from the Ilocos.

Pagasa was also monitoring a low-pressure area east of Mindanao that was forecast to enter the Philippine area of responsibility on Sunday. Filomeno Fiesta jr., Ofelmeo Arsolon, Xinghe Olivar and Vincent Cabreros in Quirino, Northern Luzon, and TJ Burgonio in Manila

Mar: Waves, not ship, sank fishing boat

From page A1

in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Quoting the three surviving fishermen of the Ahl. Julie, Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas yesterday said the fishing boat sank after the foreign vessel, believed to be registered in Hong Kong, swept past them with great force.

Swamped by waves

Roxas said that before the ship sweep vessel surged past, the two-engine fishing boat was already docked in an artificial reef after experiencing motor problems.

"They tied their boat to the reef[1] so they won't drift ... and while there, the cargo vessel passed by [but] did not see them...," he told reporters at the Manila International Container Terminal in the Port of Manila, where he attended the inauguration of a berth owned by the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

What might have happened was that the huge waves kicked up by the passing vessel rushed to the fishing boat, according to Roxas.

"There were big waves and the more they [the fishermen] were battered. Kulo silang nasugi," Roxas said.

PCG probe

Roxas said it was possible the foreign vessel did not see the boat, or saw it and tried to avoid it.

"We really do not know. This is still speculation," he added.

Roxas told reporters it was better to wait for the outcome of the investigation of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which has already coordinated with the Hong Kong maritime department.

Roxas and Vice Adm. Edmund Tan, head of the PCG, said they were awaiting the reply of the Hong Kong authorities to their request to locate the foreign vessel.

'Hong Kong' markings

The survivors earlier said their boat was struck by a cargo vessel that bore markings on the stern reading "Hong Kong" and other markings that looked like Chinese characters.

Roxas said the survivors were starting to get better from the hypothermia they had suffered and were able to give their version of what happened.

Asked what specific charges the government might file against the cargo vessel, Roxas said only that there was a maritime convention that required ships to "give succor [and] assistance if you pass by an accident or to someone needing help" at sea.

But he said he did not know if there was a penalty for violation of this part in the convention.

Storm hampers search

Roxas said the PCG helicopters assisting the area where the boat sank had not spotted any sign of it.

Yesterday, as Tropical Storm "Dindo" crossed northern Luzon, the Coast Guard suspended its search for the missing fishermen.

Navy Lt. Jonnel Empino, operations officer of the PCG district in northwestern Luzon, said the storm had prevented his men from resuming their aerial and surface search operations.

"But we are still conducting land patrols along the coastal areas of the Ilocos provinces," Roxas said in a telephone interview.

On Wednesday, the PCG deployed a helicopter and a rescue boat to assist the search team of Roxas for the missing fishermen Reynaldo Fred Dalmas, Arnold Garcia and Danny de los Santos of Bolinao town in Pangasinan.

Four of their companions were rescued by fishermen from Maqulapal, Ilocos Sur, four days after the incident. One of them died in a hospital in Vigan City.

Roxas said that after eight days, there was a slim chance the missing fishermen could still be found. "But we will not stop until we find them, dead or alive," he said.

Bolinao Mayor Alfonso Celeste said the only hope the four were alive was if they had been picked up by foreign ships.

"It's suddenly," Celeste said by telephone.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Pawn in power play

EDITORIAL

PUNCHTUREX: China has again engaged in saber-rattling and warned the Philippines against the latter's decision to open a public kindergarten on Pag-asa in the Kalayaan island chain off the province of Palawan. Hong Lei, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, said that Beijing "opposes any illegal activity that may infringe on China's sovereignty," according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency. Hong said Manila should "refrain from taking any measure that will complicate and exacerbate the current situation and affect peace and stability in the South China Sea." But isn't China itself exacerbating the situation?

By announcing on Pag-asa's five-pupil kindergarten, which is purely internal to the Philippines on its as we're concerned, China "internationalizes" the matter and makes of a perfectly innocent thing a pawn in geopolitical power play.

Moreover, China's statement betrays doublespeak. While Hong said he hoped "relevant countries will abide by the spirit of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," which China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) signed in 2002, he asserted that his country had "indisputable sovereignty" over the Spratly islands and their surrounding waters.

China conveniently ignores that the Philippines controls Pag-asa and that Filipinos live on the island which is part of the municipality of Kalayaan. The Department of Foreign Affairs has asserted that "the Kalayaan group of islands, which includes Pag-asa, is an integral part of Philippine territory as declared in Republic Act No. 9522 and other relevant Philippine laws." As President Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda put it, China can say whatever it wants but it should not make Pag-asa an issue because "the municipality has been there" for a long time "and it's never been questioned."

The Philippines has been exercising effective jurisdiction over Pag-asa since 1971; the establishment of a kindergarten is merely a reaffirmation of that fact. Pag-asa has a town hall, a health center, an airstrip and a naval station, among other infrastructure. The Philippine military occupies several of the Kalayaan islands that the country claims are part of its territory. In contrast, China has built a number of military facilities that it claims are there to provide shelter for its fishers. But there's much debate about whether or not they're fishers. As evidence in Panacng Shoal off Zambales, the fishers are actually poachers, raiding marine sanctuaries and hauling off endangered species. Simply put: There must be a way of harmonizing one's claim of sovereignty and jurisdiction over contested territory in ways less harmful to the environment. If indeed the kindergarten in Pag-asa is designed to advance that claim, then it's a less debilitating step of doing that than giving free rein to poaching. In fact, education may be a key to enlighten minds and slow them to the dangers of environmental degradation.

The Philippines has advanced diplomatic initiatives to settle the disputes over the Spratlys. During the Asean summit in Cambodia last April, it asked the regional grouping to take the lead in resolving the dispute in the West Philippine Sea, and to bring the Spratlys claimants together toward "a rules-based, multilateral and peaceful resolution of the issue." Granted is that would be the drafting of the Code of Conduct among the claimants. The United States supports the planned Code of Conduct.

Filipinos are pursuing education and development to consolidate their claim over Pag-asa and other islands. They're also turning to art. When many get China's slander to the announcement that one of the movies in the Director's Showcase of the Cinemalaya festival of independent cinema this month is about Pag-asa. Its title, quite appropriately, is "Kalayaan." It was shot by director Adolfo Alix Jr. right in the Spratlys and stars Thai mariner Khi Anandita Everingham. Since Alix has won awards in the international film festival circuit (he was listed by the Hollywood Reporter in its "Next Generation Asia 2010" as among the top 20 young entertainment personalities in Asia deemed "the best and the brightest among their peers" from a vast region considered "the world's biggest entertainment market"), and considering further that Everingham has an international following, "Kalayaan" will surely be shown abroad. Then the world will further know about the situation in the Spratlys. The dispute will be further "internationalized" and the Philippine claim humanized.

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Now we have ghost policemen

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WE STARTED with ghost voters in Maguindanao, then our have ghost employees of councilors in Quezon City and now we have ghost policemen in the Philippine National Police payroll. We are familiar with money-rich cops receiving bribes of or hips, but this latest outfit goes one step further: It is the cops themselves who are ghosts, four ghosts who collect paychecks, and when they leave already collected more than hundreds of millions of pesos. The worst has been going on for the past several years.

The salaries of policemen are paid in checks issued by the Land Bank of the Philippines. The checks are prepared, not by the PNP but by the bank. The PNP merely furnishes the bank a list of the names of policemen. But in this case, for some reason, checks for names not in the original payroll were prepared. And for persons name to collect the checks. There were sent to buy goods in grocery stores and supermarkets, which then cashed the checks with the bank. That was how the ghosts materialized. The checks bounced. The bank found out that they were fake.

Senior Supt. Gutierrez Cortez Jr., the PNP spokesperson, was in the Rajahan sa Manila at the Diamond Hotel last Monday to explain that the PNP itself did not lose anything in the scam. Neither did the bank, it was the grocery stores all over the country that accepted the checks in payment for goods that lost millions of pesos. Those who used the checks were obviously known in the grocery store owners; otherwise, the latter would not have accepted the checks. The investigators can start with them.

I may be wrong, but it was also the Land Bank that was victimized in another scam years ago. That scam went this way: Checks for taxes payable to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs were deposited in a previously closed account of a fake bank. While the checks were being cleared, another account was opened in the same branch with a deposit in the same amount as the deposit of the earlier account. When the checks were cleared, the second deposit was withdrawn and the account closed. It was the two innocent depositors that were withdrawn.

The scam could not have been perpetrated without the connivance of someone in the bank branch. A number of persons were charged but as of last report, the case is still pending. Right now, many years later. According to reports, some of the accused have escaped to other countries and their whereabouts are now unknown. They are probably enjoying their ill-gotten riches in the Philippines, some years, after all.

Police Gen. at the Rajahan but Monday was the first and only woman major general in the police force. Director Lina Formentera. She comes from a family of policemen so it is not surprising that from early childhood she wanted to be a police woman. She went through police school, finished through the ranks, and finally became a major general. She is married, but not to a policeman.

Instead of those had been any rumors of sexual harassment against her in the police force, Antonio replied: "They wouldn't dare."

Mikel Cojuangco, the reason did not yet accepted her nomination. Honasan first had some other views on speeding up the wheels of justice. The Philippines probably has the slowest justice system in the world. Cases take decades to resolve. The irony is that the slowest court is the Supreme Court, which takes many years to decide cases appealed to it. Sometimes litigants are already dead by the time the high court rules on their cases, especially land cases.

According to Honasan, there are laws and rules for expeditious dispensation of justice but they are not being enforced. What is needed is for the high court to closely monitor and supervise the lower courts to make sure that the rules limit the leniency and length of hearing postponements, but those rules are not followed. Judges resort to verbatim postponements because their dockets are crowded. And those dockets are crowded because some judges are only 15 justices, and every lawyer who loses a case in the lower court elevates his case all the way to the high court. Cases appealed to the high court should be limited to questions of law. Questions of fact should stay in the lower courts, after all, they are the ones who heard the testimonies of witnesses and are the best judge of their credibility.

The number of justices in the high court should be increased, but that would need a constitutional amendment.

The other Enrile guests were two ladies who are both Cojuangco: Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., father of Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, father of former Rep. and now Customs Commissioner Rudy Biazon.

Nene Pimentel is in the thick of things because of son Koko's position with the inclusion of his rival, outgoing Sen. Miguel Zubiri, in the UNA senatorial ticket. Nene is of course supporting his son.

Congressman Biazon was asked if he would run for senator again in the 2013 election because he has been twice nominated as a probable senatorial candidate. Like a dozing father, old man Biazon replied that that would depend on Rudy. If Rudy runs for senator, his father will run for reelection as congressman. If he doesn't, his old man will, too, to return to the Senate.

The irony of martial law victims' fate

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

I WROTE many years back that, for the martial law victims within the "unification cut of all" it was in being forgotten but in being misunderstood. The other day, they suffered another legal defeat, as yet another Supreme Court decision misunderstanding the role of the extraterritorial adjudication of human rights abuses.

The US court ventured the case to us because it lay "within the province of Philippine national sovereignty," the only civil the victims were in American courts for their places? Because our local courts were loath to act on the victims' desperate pleas.

In 1995, the human rights victims won $2 billion in damages in a Honolulu court. In that case, 9,541 human rights victims filed suit against the Marcos estate, resulting in finding 1,900 proven cases. Filartiga v. Pena-Irala, wherein 10 courts were allowed to try human rights violations committed abroad even when both the torturer and the victims were foreigners (or in legalese, without any jurisdictional link to the forum). In the end, that judgment is largely unenforced.

That is why the victims were forced to collect some $20 million held in a US bank in the name of a dummy Panamanian corporation formed by the Marcoses in 1972 (the year martial law was proclaimed). Moreover, they were opposed by the Philippine government, which claimed the cash for itself. But one fundamentalist had suffered based that the money were ill-gotten wealth published by the Marcoses, and declared them forfeited in favor of the Philippine government.

The Philippine Supreme Court has also declared that all the ill-gotten wealth "supposedly acquired from the government itself (and so) all assets and purposes belong to the people (and) must be returned to the public treasury." Thus are executive the first irony: The human rights victims are pitted against the Filipino people and the government that represents them.

The second irony is that the funds, once recovered, are earmarked for agrarian reform. That will pit the human rights victims against the Filipino peasantry. Each group holds a powerful claim to justice: the peasants to the land they till; the torture victims to the monetary compensation for their suffering. Yet this tug-of-war is by no means inevitable or necessary. Indeed, the two groups should be natural allies because the activists are fighting anyway for peasants' rights, among their many causes. What sets them against one another is not locally. Rather, it is that losers flock to claim against the same pot of money. In other words, we could have structured it differently so that it's not a zero-sum game.

This was not the only time that the torture pleas were frustrated by the Philippine government. When the victims tried for "recognition and enforcement of foreign judgment" and tried to enforce the hundreds award in a Philippine court, our local courts mechanically and contemptuously found a stiff thing to: after all, the thing for is contained on the basis of the executive's decree, which is the case, EO 1boo. The martial law victims had to go all the way to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which sensitized the victims and held that the local courts had thereby denied them an effective remedy under Philippine law.

The third irony is that, the last time some $280 million was transferred by the Swiss to the Philippine government, it ended up being used in the 2004 "fertilizer fund scam" to fund the presidential campaign of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The foreign court thought it was doing the right thing giving hand the money to the Philippine government.

It is significant that today, the leader of the human rights claimants is no less than the chair of the Commission on Human Rights, Loretta Ann Rosales. She said: "I feel rather sad that a historical judgment won for victims of martial law ... should be retained by purely legal arguments, blind to the spirit of the human rights provisions that our framer-rules fought for for freedom we enjoy today."

The final irony be "those who fought for the freedom we enjoy today" is that it is that freedom that has allowed our courts to look the other way. Not a single Philippine court has ever found fault with criminal blame liable for the disappearances, torture and arrests under his regime. This has forced his victims to turn to American courts for justice. It has taken a Honolulu court to render them the justice that Philippine courts have failed to give. And now the Philippine courts have failed to give. And now a judgment that foreign courts have done them the favor of vanishing, from labored and hollowed.

More than a quarter-century after the restoration of democracy is a time for a political solution in the form of a compensation bill passed by Congress. Some have raised the issue of how to justify injustices suffered in the distant past. Remember that victims of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans in World War II were compensated only under President Bill Clinton, a good 50 years later. The passage of time is no excuse for delay.

Another "distant past" some argue when the actual human rights victims has died and the claimant is usually another family member. To start with, a good number of the actual sufferers are still alive and indeed are precisely in the twilight of their years when they direly need the money. And even otherwise, the typical children of the human rights victims rightly deserve to partake of the award since they too, have suffered a part of the ordeal that their parents endured.

The recent setback before 15 courts must prod our Congress to finally pass the compensation bill for victims closure to this dark chapter in our nation's history.

Comments to pacalan@yahoo.com

A socially transformed Asean needed

THE CONCEPTUAL idea and framework of a "shared regional zone of essential existence" (SHARE) for the Southeast Asian lies is strategic or achievable. Its central objective is to create a regional region based on sharing vitally important natural resources in this vast waterway among the many countries bordering it. The principles of SHARE is aimed at overcoming mutual suspicions and fostering a longer-term cooperative peace for the social progress and development of Southeast Asia.

This SHARE can be attained and further developed only through a regionally oriented collective process principally involving the consultations of Southeast Asian nations as a bid-man for shifting the regional balance of power in favor of the area's social majority. In particular, Asean must become a regional community of states and societies guided by a highly progressive social-economic-political agenda. As such, Asean should clearly advance a truly people-centered, democratically progressive and socially just alternative to its current elitist attitude.

This means that Asean will have to be socially transformed into a radically new entity. Today's Asean cannot effectively provide for the full development of the region's people and their many basic needs. The past 45 years of its existence have only drawn these unfulfilled basic, underneath and unequitable it has been since its launch in August 1967 as an anticommunist association of regional states. Because of its organizational history as a political-security organization during the Cold War, Asean is prone to adopt its external policy stance with that of the United States on a wide range of global and regional questions. Indeed, by the time the Cold War ended with the liquidation of the then Soviet Union in December 1991, Asean had fully internalized its Washington Consensus and its neoliberal economic paradigm.

In transforming itself into a social-political instrument for regionwide change, Asean will inevitably have to replace its conservative reliance. It will also have to veer away from its reliance on the United States as the world's sole superpower and on US preoccupations for global issues and concerns. If Asean can pursue a more regionally focused multilateral developmental track, it can yet become a strategic regional power center with newly-found to create and sustain more dynamic for greater systemic change across and around the socio-surrounding the Southeast Asian lies.

The building of a new Asean should be recognized as having a long-term perspective. Likewise, the SHARE initiative has to be welcomed as a complementary assignment to such an innovative process. Thus, this strategic directional thrust can only further enhance a broader regionalist approach to resolving today's national disastrous claims to certain zones of the Southeast Asian lies, including between China and the Philippines.

This cooperative plan for one of the world's principal maritime routes is meant to jointly develop and share all its essential commons among the littoral states. This scheme can fundamentally erase the necessary space to build an atmosphere of confidence to help promote deeper solidarity and cooperation among the concerned states. It would have the effect of drastically diminishing neighboring suspicions and fostering regional tensions. At the minimum, it could help ease the current regional frictions that remain ripe for a potentially devastating military clash. Such a conflict involving dominant states would merely deepen the United States as a global imperialist force that is always ready to entice others to advance its own regional interests.

Thus, in broad strokes, the radical creation of a "new Asean" will essentially require a concrete convergence and realization of at least three strategically oriented preconditions: a global environment open to systemic change; a militarist leadership transformation of Asean; and Asean's unified push for a genuinely independent external policy framework premised on the principles of nonconfrontation conducive to the progress of all peoples, and not merely its states.

The main precondition for the transformation of Asean can only arise through a radical structural change of its nature. In effect, this means that the repressed social majority within each Asean country must eventually rise to power by taking control of their own state leaderships. In doing so, they will have to transform governments that politically advance a progressive people-centric policy for genuine systemic change. It is also this alternative policy framework that will centrally guide Asean's external relations with its neighbors and the rest of the world.

Rene Ariño is a foreign policy analyst. He used to do foreign policy research with various government offices and used to teach international politics and international foreign policy.

COMMENTARY

Rizali Delfino

Sharing important resources will ensure and sustain longer-term cooperative peace for social progress and development in the region

Medical pioneers

THE COMMENCEMENT exercises were held last June 2, somewhat atypical in the Philippines, where these rituals are usually held in April. The togas and caps were different, too: as befitting the medical graduates, they had the color green, but this was combined with gray associated with a bamboo display.

The graduating class was from the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), the first of a unique program that allows those new doctors to add "MD" as well as "MBA" (master of business administration) after their names.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The brain behind the medical school was Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, who wanted a new medical curriculum that would produce not just excellent clinicians but also public health experts and administrators. A 21st century vision that began in the 20th when Bengzon was building up Medical City from a small hospital to the large medical complex that it is today. Other ideas came in when he was health secretary, the first after the 1986 Edsa revolt, when he had to fight many battles against inefficiency and corruption.

"This purpose-yielded," said Dr. Ma. Fabiana Ilag, one of the associate deans, with pride and a bit of relief. It wasn't just taking care of the students through the five years of medical school, but also the many years of planning that went into the medical school.

The Ateneo Board of Trustees approved the creation of the school in 1997, after much discussion. But it was to take another 10 years before the school opened its doors to this first batch. There were numerous meetings and workshops all through those years, literally from one millennium into the next, to discuss how this medical school would be different, and what dual degrees could be offered. An MPH (master of public health) was considered, as well as an MM (master of management). In the end, the choice of the MBA was partly out of convenience: Ateneo already had years of experience with its MBA programs offered in its Makati campuses, including degrees specific for health professionals with strong exposure to public health and management.

I was tapped for, I felt, an honor: I wanted to help think of the future for the social sciences and to train teachers and mentors to doctors, with the aim of developing cultural competence, which isn't just sensitivity to people's cultures but also the ability to harness people's own knowledge, and practices, to keep healthy and fight disease.

MBA math

I was certainly uncomfortable with the MBA degree, in part because of public perceptions that an MBA produces business people, and that doctors are already too good at making money. But interactions with the Ateneo-SOM staff have convinced me that we would more of these MBA programs for other professionals, and that we should aspire to world-class core companies. The trajectory of today's MBA is well summarized in an MBA cash flow crafted by the 2009 graduates of Harvard Business School and which has since been signed by thousands of other MBA graduates around the world, including, I hope, the new ASMPH graduates.

The cash flow of a typical MBA graduate's role in society: first, "to lead people and manage resources to create value that no single individual can create alone," and second, that their decisions "affect the well-being of individuals inside and outside [their] enterprise, today and tomorrow." The sixth has several promises concerning ethical conduct and the promotion of the welfare of society, and the generation of "value creation." How appropriate, I thought, for today's physicians, who create value by keeping people healthy.

Dr. Bienvenido Nebres, who was president of Ateneo de Manila for 18 years, and now the medical school dean, from an idea to when it is ready, delivered the commencement lecture. He spoke of the ideals of the doctor and of a physician. He reminded the audience that medicine is the conquest of the sciences—a theme developed by Lewis Thomas in a book with that title—and continues to develop. I thought, indeed, individual medical practice will give way to group practice and larger hospitals and medical centers, but this will not change the ideal of the doctor healing warmth and concern for the family physician.

The valedictorian, Jose Antonio Yu Tan Jr., talked about how hard he and his classmates had to work, not just to learn organ systems and bones and muscles, but to understand the healthcare system through actual exposure.

"If an MD is all you want to be," he said, describing their rounds in public and private hospitals and communities. He referred several times to the way these experiences defined them.

So, how were the 42 pioneering MD/MBAs. I remember interviewing some of the applicants for the first batch, and always, panel members would ask why they were applying to a new medical school. Several said they wanted to help the poor, others, that they were frustrated with the way the health system operated; there were vile takers intrigued by this new approach. I was particularly impressed with Antonia Aji Miranda, who gave up a well-paying job in Singapore involving genetics research, to come home to study medicine so she could restore a hospital in Mindanao started by her father.

Aji's case reminded me that passion doesn't always die. They're courageous, yes, but they also have visions, and determination. In their five years of medical studies, I would occasionally hear of turbulence, and sometimes I could tell rough sailing was coming because the faculty had taught them "too well." They were thinking differently, and deserving privileges that they had not yet earned.

It's always hard being the oldest in a family that's growing. I was told the class this year, which will be graduating in 2017, has 142 students.

Typos

At a lecture last year on "Rizal the Scientist," I mentioned to the audience that Ateneo's medical school graduated its first graduates in the 1930s. One of them was Rizal, who did get his bachelor's degree from Ateneo Municipal but had to go on to the University of Santo Tomas and the University of Madrid for his medical training.

In "Rizal the Taxpayer" we read about the death of Una, a woman driven insane by an oppressive society. Its left vacuous stare at the end of the novel, "El Filibusterismo," at this time having studied medicine in Ateneo Municipal, thanks to the first Ateneo de Manila medical graduate, and this was in the 19th century!

I have to emphasize that Ateneo Municipal did not have a medical school then, but I wonder if Rizal, who never forgot his Ateneo memories, ever thought that he would have a medical school in Manila. I could it into more timeline, children of a troubled Mother Philippines. Rizal would have been proud to have these ASMPH pioneers taking an eloquent pledge, written by Dr. Raymundo S. Baquiran and which talks about serving the needs to transform society, to work with all who are unselfish, whether of the body or of the soul.

The talk was also about the ideals that are the pioneering task of Filipino spirit of the graduates: "Pumunuyan ng mga tinatagguyanan ng pasyente."

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

Flimsy passports and national pride

A PASSPORT is not just a travel document, it is the highest identity form for an individual. Issued and respected wherever and whenever it is presented. Provided by the state, a passport is recognized as authentic, and affordable abuse to government legitimacy are erased.

There was crime—and I suspect it is still the case with some foreign governments or immigration officials—when a Philippine passport was looked on with suspicion and a wide range of questions were due to the propensity of many Filipinos to seek illegal entry to their countries of destination (thus the coining of the term "TNT" or tago nang tago, 'til some is telling," to refer to illegals), but part of the problem may also be traced to the doubts about the authenticity of Philippine travel documents, starting with our passports.

Reforms instituted here, and the worldwide use of "machine-readable" passports with computer chips inserted in them have since led to the easing of double-checks at airports and other immigration posts, making international travel, especially for our millions of overseas workers, safer and less stressful. And yet the situation regarding the production of Philippine passports, including a repeated shortage of the supply of passport booklets, is threatening to undermine the positive developments, and apparently of our passports. This is not just a matter of quality control but more so of national pride. Im not kidding. A passport is not just a form of identification, it stands as a symbol of one's country. And if passports from other Filipinos are deemed untrustworthy or of dubious provenance, then what does that say about our country?

* * *

RECENTLY, news emerged about alleged irregularities conducted by the Department of Foreign Affairs's (DFA) debit card in the issuance of passports being issued by the Office of Consular Affairs and jointly manufactured by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the winning contractor, a firm called Dorothea Philippines.

I do not know why Foreign Secretary was quoted as saying that these officers "are well aware of the issue" and are "taking steps to address it."

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Overseas workers and even business travelers had been complaining that when local and foreign immigration officers pull out Philippine passports from their plastic jackets (apparently the better to wear them), the passports often come apart.

Many returning Filipino workers, said an immigration agent, find that their passports are so flimsy that the shrinking gives way and the pages loosen. A Chinese-Filipino businessman also reported that when a Hong Kong immigration officer pulled out his new passport from its jacket, "the pages became loose in the hands of the immigration officer, with some [pages] spilling on the floor."

When this happens, it subjects the traveler not just to embarrassment or inconvenience but, more seriously, to suspicions that he or she is using a "fake" document. Such suspicions may result in the traveler being asked to step out of the line to be interrogated in private—certainly a frightening experience even for one secure in the thought that he or she is traveling with superbly valid and authentic passport.

* * *

IN RESPONSE to such complaints, all the DFA says is that these are "isolated" and "random" incidents.

Hernandez added that "to settle the situation, the BSP production unit has been applying quite intermittent tape, which secures the stitching of the passport [and] was at the inside pages of the [document], thus making it difficult to detect other document irregularities normally reflected on such pages."

Excuse me, but the statements—and the action—is like applying band-aid to a gaping wound.

I would think that the DFA would put more importance to the integrity of our passports, and would be more concerned about reports on the flimsy travel documents. For instance, it could go back to its former supplier and demand better quality passports. For now, all Hernandez can say is that the defective passports will be replaced by the Office of Consular Affairs, although he couldn't say whether the passports will be replaced for free or would still come under the existing P1,200 fee.

Other officials would rather blame the plastic covers (which are sold by vendors right outside the DFA's passport offices) which have a tendency, they said, to stick to the passport covers, so that when the applicant's officer tries to tear it, the bone binding gives way.

I find it interesting that instead of assuring the public, especially overseas workers, that the DFA will look into the problem and study ways to assure the integrity and durability of our passports, it just passes the buck to the private sector (supplies officials blame instead the passport users supposedly for handling their passports less than gently), and the unsound plastic covers.

* * *

THE situation gets even curiouser and curiouser, indeed.

The previously mentioned Dorothea (supposedly named by the Gore family of the "gory stories" Rhonda Gutrof Bank fame) has been supplying e-covers for the BSP (which was approved by the DFA) for the past four years at a cost of 91 apiece. In a recent tender of the BSP last February, Otwithas won the bid again when it undercut all other bidders and cited a price of 82.50 per passport.

So if, using their "discount" Otwithas has been making a 10-peso net profit for every passport all these years? This comes to a total of 13.6 million a year, at an estimate of 10,000 passports a year at P1,000 each.

Curious minds ask: Why has Otwithas supplied the e-covers at double the price all these years—and been allowed to do so by government officials? Is there a conspiracy here?

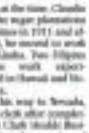
Rizal in the US Navy, Filipinos in WWI

RIZAL PARK | seems to feature a time and place for Filipino heroism acted hostilities did not manifest some many dozen earlier in World War I. The Philippines got involved in World War I because, at the time, she was still a US colony. When I read the US Governor General's Report for 1918, I was surprised that discussion of Philippine independence from the United States was not mentioned in the declaration of the war, and that the Philippines and its people expressed their loyalty to America in concrete ways, like subscription to Liberty bonds and volunteering to serve, rather than being drafted, in the US military. And in 1917, 1,200 Philippine boys were chosen by lottery to build a ship and volunteered for the US Navy. The submarine did not materialize but the ship did. It was donated to the US Navy and was christened Rizal.

Although Rizal was an opposition of Philippine loyalty to America during World War I, the 1,200 Filipinos who volunteered to serve in the military after the war, built on San Francisco, California. Rizal was launched in 1918 and commissioned in 1920. She joined the Pacific Fleet under Commander Edmund A. Rust, and Filipinos made up the majority of her crew. She was later modified and converted into a seaplane tender, and redesignated Gannet and Okinagan a number of times.

Rizal was decommissioned in 1931, demolished and sold for scrap metal in 1932. Photos of the vessel and technical specifications are available online.

Apart from Rizal in the US Navy there were Filipinos who fought in the so-called "Great War." These Filipino veterans joined the 33 group called Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose then Retired Wait 2003 | visited in honor of Pvt. Tomas Claudio, the first Filipino casualty in World War I. According to Col. Antonio Custodio, the historian of Commission of the Philippines, Claudio was born in Morong, Rizal, on May 7, 1892, to Gregorio Claudio, a violinist, and Perpua Mateo, a nurse/ seamstress. He was described as outdoors but with a



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

cheerful disposition. Claudio did not complete high school but landed a job as a guard in the bureau of Prisons. He was dismissed in 1911 for "disobedience of duty," his status without being changed on the rolls.

Like many young Filipinos at the time, Claudio sought fame and fortune in the sugar plantations of Hawaii. He left the Philippines in 1911 and after staying a while in Hawaii, he moved to work in the salmon canneries in Alaska. Two Filipino patriots lived in the same work capacity—Mariano Vicalo worked in Hawaii and Mariano Ichiko worked in Alaska.

Claudio eventually made his way to Nevada, where he worked as a postal clerk after completing a course in stenotypy at Clark (double) Business School in 1916. Following the declaration of World War I in 1917, Claudio applied to the US Army where he was rejected out since but twice. By persevered and was eventually enlisted in the 91st Division. He was trained and sent to France, which would be the final destination after his long travels around the country. Claudio saw action in the Battle of Cantigny, the first US offensive against the Germans in World War I, where he was wounded on May 28, 1918. He died from his wounds a month later on June 26.

Another version of the story states that he was killed by snipers fire in Chateau-Thierry on June 29, 1918. The dates are the same but the details need rechecking because the Battle of Chateau-Thierry if Claudio fought there, occurred on July 18, 1918. Nevertheless, it is an accepted fact that Private Tomas Matos Claudio was the first Filipino to fall on foreign soil during the Great War.

Claudio fought under Gen. John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing (1860-1948), whose combat experience before World War I included the Apache and Sioux Wars in the United States, the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba, and the so-called Moro Rebellion in Jolo.

Pershing described the Battle of Cantigny thus:

"On April 28th the First Division relieved two French divisions on the front near Montdidier and on May 28th captured the important observation situations on the heights of Cantigny with splendid dash.

"Friendly artillery, aviation, tanks, and flame throwers aided in the attack, but none of this French assistance was withdrawn before the completion of the operation in order to meet the enemy's new offensive launched May 27th to avoid Chateau-Thierry."

"The enemy counter-attacks against the troops at Cantigny was extremely violent, and apparently he was determined at all costs to counteract the most excellent effect the American success had produced.

"For three days his guns of all calibers were concentrated on our new position and counter-attack succeeded counter-attack. The desperate efforts of the Germans gave the fighting at Cantigny a seething tactical importance entirely out of proportion to the numbers involved."

Claudio is buried in Manila North Cemetery. "T. Claudio" is now a name of an obscure Metro Manila street. In History now stands a Tomas Claudio Memorial College. Claudio should remind us of the other Filipino soldiers who fought and died in the battlefields of Europe. We owe it to them to make our mem Philippine links to the Great War.

* * *

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Pati Ilgo.

Lessons from Corona's conviction

LETTERS

SENATOR-JUDGES pause for a prayer before the start of another hearing at then-Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment trial.

I DON'T WE repeat this sordid saga in our history. I believe we are in a position to learn valuable lessons from the conviction of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Here are five lessons I've learned:

1. Some people just get lower with age! Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile was sharper than ever as he deftly conducted the proceedings with supreme decorum and order. The defense counsel head, former Justice Serafin Cuevas, easily ran rings around the amateurish prosecutorial panel. Their performances were defining moments.

2. We will miss Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago when she leaves for the International Court of Justice. Mr. Star disagree with the manner she chases people on debate her weird accent, or scoff at her penchant for always calling attention to her claimed superior intelligence and incomparable knowledge of the Constitution and the law. But the human and TV audience will certainly miss the comic relief from her routine outbursts and colorful pronouncements.

3. No natural swimming script can save a bad actor. The role called for someone who has been wronged by a vengeful president, a victim of a vicious conspiracy, a simple man whose only desire was to serve the people and champion the cause of the poor farmers of Hacienda Luisita. Instead, he came across as self-indulgent, pendant, inarticulate, misunderstood and rude. His team were alarmed as he looking for crocodile tears. The unforgiving TV cameras showed his shifty eyes to be his doom of a sated not unanimous acquittal never be missed.

4. President Aquino meets his match. The way he never wavered in his desire to remove "the face of a corrupted judiciary" should send chills down the spines of the other members of the Arroyo camp in the Supreme Court, including Corona's loyal spokesperson Midas Marquez. The message is clear: Your days of impunity are over. The time of reckoning is near.

5. The fight against corruption continues. We, as responsible citizens, must remain vigilant. We got the leaders we went for (at) Corona is a signal that's what they do right and will show our arms carry go astray and where they refuse to mend their ways, kick decisions.

—EB BADIOLA
Makati City

A preview of things to come

I WRITE in response to Gonzalo de Quiroz case (It remains "A matter of Honor").

I thank him for his incisive dissecting of crucial considerations in the selection of the next Chief Justice.

In stepping for the departure from the tradition of seniority De Quiroz cited as examples the cases of Chief Justices Ricardo Paras and Roberto Pano. I respectfully submit that, I don't think these are same facts that need to be clarified.

Among the landmark rulings of Chief Justice Bengzon that we studied in class is the case of La Bugal-B'laan Tribal Association v. Ramos, regarding the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995. The Supreme Court, through Associate Justice Jose Mendoza Corchico Cuejo Melencio, struck down as unconstitutional several provisions of the Mining Act. Barely a year later, several justices reversed themselves and declared the law constitutional. Several laws supports—including the Income—Gifted Student Zone de Wenceslao as having said that he talked on several positions to change their minds. A year later, Associate Justice Panganiban was named the 21st chief justice of the Philippines. Looking closely, the Aquino administration's current moves to amend the national mining policy mark the resurrection of the dissenting justice to La Bugal.

I then find it interesting that De Quiroz commended Chief Justice Puno for striking down "Arroyo's plan of changing the Charter." The case he referred to was Lambino v. Comelec, which was decided on Oct. 25, 2006. The premise of the Court's judgment in that case was Associate Justice Antonio Carpio (an Arroyo appointee) who branded the "People's Initiative" as a "grand deception." Associate Justice Puno did not find "the change against Arroyo's plan of changing the Charter," but he wrote an extended dissent calling the Lambinos initiative as the "people's motion" and a manifestation of our nation's sovereign will. At any rate, history will show that, barely three months after that decision, Associate Justice Puno was appointed chief justice by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

It is because of these instances that I disagree with De Quiroz' view as unlearned discretion on the part of the appointing power. While not appalled, it cannot be denied that an "absolutely free" prerogative upon the position of the chief justice to a "free-for-all" and ultimately injects frailty to Mehodathig's "administrative and governmental problem" as a signal.

Isn't, if not controlling, compelling. We are this happening now in the mad rush of persons functioning declarations to be the future chief justice.

Perhaps the problem is our reality when justices do court they have become the chief justice, to, rather than they do it in order to become the chief justice. It is all, when a justice does regularly what, a preview of things to come, and our consequent experience confirms this.

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Give justice to Pacquiao—the real winner—and his fans

THE WBO review panel of five judges declared Manny Pacquiao the real winner in the Pacquiao vs. Bradley fight last June 9 in Las Vegas. However, the decision of the three judges to deny Pacquiao his rightful victory has to be overturned.

Many believe that the only way the belt can be returned to the Pacquiao is beat Timothy Bradley in another fight, which would hardly give Pacquiao or his fans justice. As an alternative, and provided Bradley is gentleman enough, he can, on his own volition, return the belt to Pacquiao. If he does not do that, it is suggested that the Philippines, perhaps through Congress representing the Filipino people and articulating the sentiment of all Filipinos or the whole world, arrange the production of a replica WBO belt with the words, "The real winner."

The belt can then be given to an appropriate ceremony in the Pacquiao. This should at least show to a more tangible way the true feelings of the Filipinos and give some justice to Pacquiao and his fans.

—A.L.LAGOS,
arl.lalag@hotmail.com

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Brillantes to PCOS foes: Let's keep talking

By Jeronie Arning

COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. yesterday said the poll agency will create a special committee to study—not to ditch—the controversial precinct-count optical scan (PCOS) machines that will be used in next year's elections.

In a dialogue Wednesday at the Comelec office in Manila, Brillantes met with leaders of poll watchdog and civil society groups, election reform organizations and information technology (IT) associations that recently filed but failed to convince the Supreme Court to stop the Comelec from purchasing 82,000 PCOS machines from Smartmatic Corp., the same machines the latter leased to the Comelec for the 2010 polls.

"We need to have a continuing dialogue so that their concerns about the technology will be addressed. We might have to create a special committee that will be open to here, listen to any and all concerns of everybody involved in the technology aspect," Brillantes told reporters.

He said the groups complained that previous Comelec administrations ignored them, "so I told them, maybe the best way is to create this special committee that will actually address all their concerns."

Brillantes said the special committee will report to the commissioners en banc so that "we can address all these problems."

Among the poll watchdog and civil society leaders who attended the dialogue were Erika Jimenez of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance; Fr. Joe Dizon of Kontra Daya; and representatives from Automated Election Systems Watch, National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections and Dutch Booted Council for Responsible Voting.

"We want to assure the public, most especially the IT, that we are sincere in working for a more improved Comelec. All of us want clean, honest and credible automated elections, why should we not work together? We need your help," Brillantes told the participants.

Jimenez said everyone wanted an improved automated election system, "but we should all learn from the lessons of 2010."

Marcos Ilagan of ABS Watch urged the Comelec to ensure all the error verification features of the PCOS machines that were "disabled" during the 2010 elections.

Dizon applauded to the poll agency to actively engage the IT community when Thailand participated in the 2006 elections.

Brillantes told the dialogue groups separately, adding: "I told them that before they go to any forum, why don't they first give us a chance? Talk to us first and let's see if we can agree or not. If not, then you can go to any forum you want to."

GK summit in Toronto targets 100,000 volunteers

TORONTO, Canada —Riley make history, events inside homes.

But for Gawad Kalinga (GK), a poverty alleviation and nation-building movement, both men and women build not just homes but empowered communities.

The 4th Gawad Kalinga Summit in Toronto, which closed June 9, hit a home run after Filipino-Canadian participants expressed enthusiasm for GK's 2013 Sleepout Challenge, which targets an end of 100,000 volunteers for a nationwide build covering 20 provinces in the Philippines.

The build is a month an intervention program as it is constructing homes.

About 700 delegates from North America, Europe and Asia attended the two-day summit held at the Allstream Centre in Toronto.

Twenty-four percent of North Americans GK village spouseships come from Canadian partners which account for 90 villages.

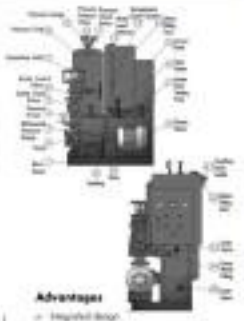
Speaking at the summit, GK founder Tony Meloto cited the 6.9 percent growth in the Philippine gross domestic product in the first quarter of the year, a gain second only to China's, something which he said "never happened before in the country's history." He also spoke of the IMF's projection that the Philippines would have the 16th largest economy in the world by 2050.

Meloto said that based on these projections, the Philippine economy would be equal to that of Canada by 2021.

The gawad team was welcomed by most Filipino-Canadians as it signified renewed hope for community-building efforts in the Philippines. In 800,000 Filipino-Canadians comprise the fourth largest urban concentration in Canada.

Meloto said Canada's investment of this corporate social responsibility programs. This evening, Meloto was also reflected by the presence of Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines, Christopher Thornley at the summit.

ATLANTA FESCO 25 IN 1
INTEGRATED FIRE PUMP UNIT



Applications
1. Used as a fire pumps for general fire hydrant, water sprinkler and water misting
2. Main feeder used in conjunction with engine as an engine fire pump for auto diesel electric discharge or machine as one are combined
3. Split type fire pump is of standard for installation area where it is enclosed

Advantages
- Integrated design
- Compatible w/ intelligent buildings
- Space savings
- Big savings for developers in terms of space, material and labor cost
- Philippine Bureau of fire approved

ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.

Smart reiterates warning against text fraud

Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) is once again reminding the public to be vigilant against fraudulent activities that make use of the mobile phone. In addition to hoax texts, scammers now also use fraudulent e-mail messages and e-commerce transactions to victimizing mobile subscribers.

To help protect the public against mobile fraud, Smart warns its subscribers against the following:

Text / E-mail Scams

Smart encourages mobile users to take action and report text and email messages that solicit donations, electronic load transfers, or cash payments to unknown organizations or 10-digit mobile numbers. For its part, Smart assures its subscribers that valid Smart prize notifications will not require cash nor load transfers. Smart promo winners are usually notified via a three- or four-digit numbers or a Smart sender ID, via official telegram, or via a phone call coming from a "7777" number.

Bukol-bukol/Dapo-dapo/ OFW Scams

Smart reminds the public, especially OFW beneficiaries, to be vigilant against fraudulent texts or calls that ask for "emergency money." Scammers would pretend to be a family member or a relative, and ask victims to deposit cash to various bank or e-money accounts. The cash is supposed to help the caller during an emergency overseas situation or an accident requiring immediate medical attention. To avoid falling victim to scammers and losing hard-earned money, text messages or calls from unknown cellphone numbers should be double-checked and confirmed.

Online Scams

The public is also advised to take precautionary measures when engaging in online shopping activities via e-commerce or social media sites. Scammers would usually sell merchandise at bargain prices, require payments via bank or mobile money transfers, give out fictitious courier tracking numbers, and fail to ship purchased goods. To prevent being duped by online scammers, consumers are advised to keep their bank and mobile money details private, and to transact only with reputable online sellers.

In addition to actively educating consumers, Smart assures the public that it will continue to step up its efforts in protecting Smart subscribers from fraudulent activities. For instance, as a safeguard against online scams, Smart developed the world's first mobile-based internet security solution, which allows Smart Money users to complete online purchases, only after unlocking their Smart Money accounts via their mobile phones. Smart's mobile commerce platform has also been designed to work closely with financial institutions which provide assurances that the necessary system safeguards are in place, and that the Anti-money Laundering Act (AMLA) standards and procedures are complied with.

When in doubt, subscribers are advised to call "8888 via Smart cellphone, or 888-1111 via landline to verify questionable text or email messages. Subscribers may also call 1211 via Smart cellphone, or 845-7777 via landline for Smart Money concerns.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

IBP forms task force to probe killings of lawyers

CLARK FREEPORT—The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) is convening next week a task force that would look into the murder of at least 200 lawyers and judges in the last 10 years in the country, IBP president Vicente Libanan said.

"How can we make people believe there is justice in this country when lawyers and judges themselves do not get justice?" Libanan said at the sidelines of the convention of the IBP Central Luzon chapter here on Thursday.

The task force would review information, finalize a tally of victims and make profiles of incidents or cases.

"Our aim is to shield lawyers from violent actions. We know [killings] are part of professional risks but these are uncalled for," Libanan said.

The IBP has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to find Batasan-based lawyer Joe Frank Dellija, who went missing on June 20 after leaving a meeting with his clients at Green Adventure in the Subic Bay Freeport. Renato Oviana, Dellija's General Luna

PNP announces total ARMM gun ban

Order comes day after Hataman aide gunned down

By DJ Yap

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) has declared a total gun ban in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), effective July 1 to 23, during the general registration of voters ahead of the May 2013 elections.

Director Danilo Pelare A. Bartolome issued a June 27 memorandum ordering the ARMM police chief, Chief Supt. Mario Arevalo, to enforce the suspension of all Permits To Carry Firearms Outside of Residence (PTCFORs) in the entire ARMM, including Lamitan City and Isabela City.

"Only members of the PNP, Armed Forces of the Philippines and other law-enforcement agencies who are performing official duties and in agency-prescribed uniforms will be allowed to carry firearms," he said in the memo.

The Commission on Elections earlier set the general registration of voters to July 1 to 23.

Bartolome directed the regional police to set up checkpoints and deploy mobile and foot patrols to enforce the gun ban more effectively.

Congress deferred the 2011 ARMM elections to 2013 and allowed President Aquino to appoint officers in charge in the region, including governor.

The line postponing the elections was questioned at the Supreme Court but the high tribunal upheld it.

Many areas in ARMM are known to be hotbeds of electoral fraud and violence usually preceded by clan wars, private armies and political dynasties.

The gun ban was announced a day after a trusted aide of the acting governor of ARMM was gunned down on Wednesday in Lamitan City.

Jesus Dillo, former actress who went underground during martial law, was on the way home from the ARMM office in Lamitan at about 6 p.m. when her van was attacked by two men riding a motorcycle.

Dillo was shot several times with a .45 cal. pistol, police said. He died at the Lamitan Regional and Medical Center.

Mujib Hataman, acting ARMM governor, said Dillo was among the most active civil-society leaders in ARMM and was helping in private referrals in the guidance center.

Dillo was involved in various foreign and locally funded development projects in ARMM and Central Mindanao region. He was also active in advocacy groups, like Bantay ARMM Movement, and was member of the Arab Mindanao party-list group which Hataman used to represent in Congress.

Catholic priest Elmo Morales, head of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance, described Dillo was like a member, inc[illegible] "It spent most of his time helping poor Muslim barrio people, mostly through various livelihood and income-generating projects.

With a report from Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

STILL POSTCARD PERFECT in Ifugao residents is this perspective of Batad Rice Terraces in Banaue, the most photographed relic among the five terraces endorsed as World Heritage Sites at the start of the century

No rest seen in campaign to restore, save rice terraces

BAGUIO CITY—Weak to superstorm damages on Ifugao's landmark rice terraces is halfway through, due partly to an outpouring of public support after massive landslides triggered by last year's storms left these relics scarred.

But that's not the only dread against worming the hearts of Ifugao farmers.

On Tuesday, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) announced that it has removed the terraces from its Endangered Heritage List "following improvements in their conservation."

Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., who helped found the Save the Rice Terraces Movement (2008) in 2009, said he was surprised by the Unesco action.

The last review team Unesco sent to Ifugao had seen the poor state of some of the terraces, Baguilat said. "They did not seem convinced last time they were here," he added.

The World Heritage Committee met in Russia for its 36th session that was posted on the Unesco website, the committee said it had removed the sites from the List of World Heritage in Danger following improvements in their conservation. The Rice Terraces are one of the Philippine Cordilleras.

The terraces were inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1995, "in recognition of the exceptionally evolved cultural landscape that has been shaped by sacred traditions and the ingenuity of the Ifugao people," wrote Richard Engelhardt, Unesco regional advisor for culture in Asia and the Pacific, for the 2008 Unesco book, "Ifugao: Saturated Terraces and the Preservation of the World Heritage Site of the Ifugao Rice Terraces."

Enshrined were the terraces in Banaue in the villages of Batad and Bangaan; those of Hungduan in the villages of Bocos, Duklikan, Mungyak and Bokong; those of Kiangan in the villages of Nagacadan and Julongan, and those of Mayoyao.

But Engelhardt said the sections were added to the dangers list in 2001 due to damage left by "unremedied tourism," as well as abandonment. "In press estimates that up to 30 percent of the rice terraces have been abandoned and left to ruin," he said in the book.

In 2003, Baguilat said the Ifugao governments launched a local and international campaign to draw volunteers to help restore the terraces, after Typhoons "Frideng" and "Quiel" worsened years of erosion.

The Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) of the provincial government reported that landslides had washed away 182,662 cubic meters of soil from terrace fronts that fed people of 13 towns.

Supported by volunteers from various agencies like the Department of Agriculture (DA) and private companies, ICHO began restoring the terraces at the start of 2012.

ICHO executive Maribelle Bimolabo said the cooperative work has restored half of the damaged terraces in time for this year's planting season and the government is retaining those the donations and a P20-million fund released by the DA had been spent.

According to a briefing paper supplied by the DA Cordillera office, the agency committed to restore 7,000 cubic meters of eroded stone walls and rebuild some 2.5 kilometers of irrigation systems that served 336 terrace paddies in Banaue. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Marketwire intern*

DENR padlocks Korean-owned restaurant in Taal Lake

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday closed down a P5-million floating restaurant in Taal Lake owned by a Korean firm for its failure to build a waste disposal system.

The DENR, through the office of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape, served the owner and chief caretaker and a notice of closure to Taal Volcano Jung Sing Leisure and Resort Inc., the same company that was also earlier denied by the DENR a permit to build a spa along the coast of the volcano for violations of environmental laws.

The facility is a two-story structure with a floating restaurant on the top floor and a holding area below for boats that offer rides to tourists around Taal Lake. It sits on 25 sunken concrete mallows connected the facility to the mainland town of Talisay, where the Korean company also owns a separate hotel.

Lasalleur Salac, protected area superintendent and community environment and natural resources officer, said the owner of closure was only for the floating structure and not the mainland resort.

According to Salac, his office issued a notice of violation to the Korean company on May 16 for operating without a waste disposal and solid waste management system. The firm did not heed the notice, prompting DENR to order its closure.

The DENR also found that the company failed to secure building and business permits from the municipal government of Talisay.

He said the company was given until Thursday next week to vacate the site before the Task Force Taal Lake, a unit created by the Batangas provincial government, begins to demolish the structure.

"They will have to vacate [the area] immediately," Salac said.

Kim Ryan, restaurant manager, refused to comment on the closure order saying the company's lawyers would soon issue a statement.

The facility one of the major attractions in Talisay since it opened in 2008, drawn in a daily average of 200 to 400 tourists, mostly Koreans.

It is owned by Jung Ang Investment Corp., the same company that earlier sought to build a spa on the mouth of Taal Volcano. The DENR, in 2007, however, revoked the environmental compliance certificate issued for the project due to violations of environmental laws and strong opposition from residents and environmental groups.

Talisay Mayor Arnulfo Montalbo yesterday said the local government supported the DENR move on shut down the establishment.

Although Montalbo admitted its closure might affect tourism in Talisay, "we have several others resorts here anyway."

Salac said the DENR had identified 15 other structures, among them resorts and wharves, that are "encroaching" on Taal Lake and have been warned about it.

Taal Lake was declared a protected area in 1996 through a presidential proclamation.

THE FLOATING Korean restaurant ordered closed by the DENR

HUMS at Asilo dela Milagrosa church in Cebu City can now breathe a sigh of relief after the Department of Public Works and Highways disclosed results of a study saying building a flyover that would cut into portions of the church land is no longer feasible. JOJO ROMERO/INQUIRER CEBU

Tacloban councilors approve ₱400-M loan

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The city council approved a request by Mayor Alfred Romualdez Jr. to borrow P400 million from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for projects that include a sanitary landfill.

The mayor's uncle, however, questioned the timing of the loan saying it would come too close to the elections next year.

The council on Wednesday passed an ordinance authorizing Mayor Romualdez to enter into a loan agreement with the LBP.

The city government planned to use P75 million to build a sanitary landfill, P80 million for repairs on the city slaughterhouse, P60 million to repair the city drainage system and P15 million to build village gates.

Absent critics

Only opposition Councilor Jerry Yeokatis opposed the ordinance. Other known dissenting critics—Councilors Niel Glova, Robert Acosta and Jerry Uy—were absent when the council passed it.

"There are fears that these projects could not be implemented considering that it's less than a year before the 2013 elections," Yeokatis said.

He said among the projects that were listed for funding, only repairs on the city slaughterhouse could generate income.

But Yeokatis said DBP's P80 million for the improvement of the abattoir was too much. "It (abattoir) could end up as the most expensive slaughterhouse in the entire country," he added.

Councilor Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez, who chairs the committee on finance, said the funds would be used properly.

"How can we answer them (investors) if we have problems on drainage? If we have more investors, they will pay more taxes," she said.

Capable city

City budget officer Vicente Dyzon said Tacloban City had a borrowing capacity of more than P400 million as certified by the Bureau of Local Government Finance.

"We cannot borrow an amount beyond our capacity to pay and the bank scrutinizes our financial standing," Dyzon said.

He said if the proposed loan project through, the city government would be able to pay it in 10 to 15 years at an annual interest of 3 percent.

He said the city's loan payment would come from its internal revenue allotment and other sources.

Tacloban City has a budget this year of P827 million.

Flyover won't push through near church

By Dilman A. delos Angeles
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The prayers of nuns at Asilo dela Milagrosa church have been answered.

The proposed flyover project in front of the church will no longer push through after a traffic impact study prepared by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Project Monitoring Office showed that it was not feasible.

Instead, the DPWH recommended that an underpass be built to ease traffic at the intersection of Gorordo Avenue and Archbishop Reyes Avenue where the church compound is located.

If an underpass were to be built, both sides of Gorordo Avenue would have to be widened to accommodate one additional lane, one on each side.

Nuns of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who run the church and orphanage inside the compound on Gorordo Avenue, resorted to prayer protest in fighting off the proposed flyover project.

The nuns expressed fears that the flyover would disrupt church services. The proposed flyover would have eaten at least 3 meters off the church grounds including part of the garden where a grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary is located and part of the church's front yard.

The flyover on the intersection of General Maxilom Avenue and M.J. Cuenco Avenue later is likely to push through, however, after its proponents settle right of way issues.

Carmelita Flores, of the DPWH's Project Monitoring Office, gave a briefing on the impact study on the project at the DPWH Central Visayas office on Tuesday.

Those said the impact study was prepared to determine the traffic characteristics of certain intersections and identify solutions to bottlenecks.

Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama, who was opposed to putting up more flyovers in the city, said he wanted private engineers and urban planners to review the DPWH traffic study to reevaluate the need for a flyover on Gen. General Maxilom and M.J. Cuenco avenues.

Former Rep. Raul del Mar, who represented his daughter, Rep. Rachel Marguerite del Mar, in the DPWH presentation, said the DPWH traffic impact study validated the need for flyover projects in Cebu City's north district.

Both father and daughter support a plan to build a network of flyovers in Cebu, which is being opposed by the multisectoral group Movement for Liveable Cebu (MLC).

The 3,000-strong MLC has instead called for better enforcement of traffic laws, widening of roads and the opening of streets to congestion by modes of mass transport, bikers, shareholders and pedestrians.

Del Mar said he and his daughter, Representative Rachel, did not oppose the DPWH recommendation to build an underpass instead of a flyover in front of the church.

A P660-million budget has been set aside for the two flyover projects in General Maxilom and near Asilo dela Milagrosa church.

Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson earlier suspended construction of the twin projects pending the conduct of a feasibility study and amid opposition from Rama and anti-flyover groups.

Iloilo folk get respite from high electricity costs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Ilonggos reeling from high rates of electricity will have a respite in a month of a 32-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour reduction in rates.

Randy Hamilton, vice president for operations of Panay Electric Company (Peco), the city's lone power distributor, said the reduction in rates was made possible by lower generation charges and taxes in June.

He said generation charges and taxes dropped because Panay Energy Development Corp. (PEDC), which operates a 164-megawatt coal plant here, had increased its share in Panay's electricity consumption. PEDC sells power at lower rates than owners of diesel plants in the city.

Peco services at least 32,000 households, commercial establishments and offices in the city.

The PEDC coal-fired power plant was connected to supply 65 MW to Peco while the diesel plant of Panay Power Corp. was contracted to supply another 15 MW.

The combined generation charge for coal and diesel power dropped from P6.38 per kWh in March to P5.95 per kWh in June, Hamilton said.

He said the more power is consumed, the lower the generation charge is.

"The significant increase in power consumption during the summer months boosted our base load demand which is supplied by the coal plant. This is why the rate is lower," Hamilton told the Inquirer.

Base load demand refers to the minimum amount of power that a supplier is required to make available.

In June, power consumption of Peco customers reached 41 million kWh up from 39 million kWh in previous months.

The reduction in power charge was also due to a drop in rates being charged for systems loss from 66.77 centavos to 66.73 centavos per kWh, Hamilton said. Taxes also went down by P3.81 centavos per kWh.

Residents said reducing generation charges by increasing the amount of coal-fueled electricity was part of efforts to soften the impact of a 32-centavo per kWh increase in rates to be collected soon by PEDC.

PEDC and Peco have sought relief from various sectors, including business groups, after the Energy Regulatory Commission granted a PEDC petition to recover P662.1 million in expenses.

Joe Hans Aguirre, head of the Iloilo chapter of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said the lowering of electricity rates was welcome but should not be temporary.

"How long will we enjoy this lower rate? This should be long-term, otherwise, this will just be an effort to pacify consumers who are angry at the imposition of new charges," Aguirre said.

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Bradley opts to keep 'stolen' Pacquiao crown

UNDEFEATED American Timothy Bradley has chosen to keep the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown, because by a dubious split decision over Filipino Superstar Manny Pacquiao on June 9.

WBO president Francisco Valcarcel confirmed Bradley's preference for the 147-lb title even after a panel of five international judges reviewed the title bout last week and declared Pacquiao the unanimous winner. As a result, Jose Manuel Marquez assumes Bradley's WBO light welter title.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoa

SPORTS

Gin Kings, Boosters seek vital victories today

By Mussing R. Castillo

SEVEN squash Barangay Ginebra and Petron Blaze down for semifinal berths against separate foes today in the elimination round of the PBA Governors' Cup games in homecourts at Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings, one of three squads yet to win both its back games in the conference, battle the thrice-to-beat Energy in the 5:35 p.m. season finale for the Boosters dog it out with ad...

...quarter when the Altas launched a 20-10 spurt to seal the triumph.

In the second game, Jose Fiscal ripped Austin...

...Ateneo Blue Eagles and Petron Blaze down for semifinal berths against separate foes today in the elimination round of the PBA Governors' Cup games in homecourts at Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings, one of three squads yet to win both its back games in the conference, battle the thrice-to-beat Energy in the 5:35 p.m. season finale for the Boosters dog it out with ad...

...who are at 2-6 and, like the Aliaska foes, are out of the playoff picture.

As things stand, the Energy and four other squads are battling it out for the remaining three semifinal slots.

Barako Bull must sweep to have any outings, assuming this one against the Kings, to advance. There is a possibility, though, that teams with a losing record may reach the semi cusps.

Meralco is another squad that has a shot like Alaska Powerade, with the Tigers' hyper scoring...

...ence take over a solo spot. B-Meg is assured to be in Laguna's City.

Teams that advance will take their respective elimination-round records into the playoffs, which commences on a shorter but to-play hard and improve their shots.

Mark Caguioa and import Cedric Bozeman, who are both coming off a 32-point night against the Texters, will again carry most of the offensive load for Ginebra.

Leroy Henderson and Willie Miller are the two prime scoring options of the Energy...

Altas gift new coach with win

Aric leads ambush of Pirates

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PASIG CITY—Philip Cezar-turned-new coach Aric del Rosario made an 82-78 victory over Lyceum last night to kick off the easy going in NCAA men's basketball at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Powered by Jet Vutti, Earl Thompson and Nigerian Sese Omoruglue, the Altas pulled away in the final quarter to complete a winning start for the returning Del Rosario, who is best remembered for guiding the University of Santo Tomas Tigers to four consecutive UAAP championships from 1993 to 1996.

"I was very nervous it felt like I was starting over again," said the 72-year-old Del Rosario, whose team finished ninth last year.

Perpetual actually won its season-opening game for the first time since 2007.

"There's still a lot of things to fix with the team," said Del Rosario.

Vutti fired 17 points, five of them in the last...

...Aldrin Jerusik, 10-11.

Earlier, Lee Nuno Gomez bossed out in the last frame, losing to rookie-filled Ateneo Blue Eagles, 5-9.

Also advancing were Germany's Rolf Bogaert, Chinese Lee Hewen, Kuwait's Omar Al-Shahoon, the Netherlands' Rick van den Berg and Italy's Bruno Mannion.

Bogaert turned Wesendahl's Jonny Mattison, 11-7; Lee bested Canada's John Hume, 11-8; Al-Shahoon whipped compatriot Khaled Al-Mutairi, 11-6; Van den Berg edged Chinese Han Xiaotong, 11-9; and Mannion topped Taiwan's Pu Chi-hsun, 11-10.

He from his best form, Reyes bested Singaporean Teh Lian Kun, 11-6, on the TV table Wednesday at the Jawad Complex. Macon, Calleja and Orcullo in the round of 32.

Carissa downed Belgian Serge Das, 11-9, while Galvez bested Asuncion Mario He, 11-7.

Macon, who hosted 1st American Shane Van Boening from the knockout stage, continued his star with an 11-9 victory over two-time world champion Ricardo Mosca. Roy Lucero

PERPETUAL'S Nesta Omoruglue has role into a join Aaron of Lyceum in fourth-quarter action of yesterday's game.

PH U18 five braces for 2 tough foes

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE HOSKEN Filipinos under-18 team goes for a victory nine in Fiba Asia when it tackles the two toughest squads in the 6th Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) U18 Championship for Men in Singapore.

Stunned by a strong opening-day outing, the young Nationals leader Malaysia at 8 tonight and then the Filipinos encounter Indonesia at 3 p.m. tomorrow at Singapore Basketball Center.

"We're wary of Indonesia, they've been building up in the last few years," said Energy...

...ennes manager Joel Lopa. "They've improved their level of play. They were in the United States for training and they were also here in the Philippines playing against some of our college teams."

The Philippines, who drew an opening-day bye, kicked off its campaign by blasting a hapless Laos side by 96 points, 124-28, on Wednesday night.

Indonesia, coached by Filipino Nat Canson, topped Malaysia, 81-73, and Singapore, 94-43, to claim the early lead in the five-nation, single-round tournament.

The tournament's top three teams will earn slots in the Fiba Asia U18 tournament scheduled Aug. 17 to 26 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Mario Reuben jumped in 24 points on top of six assists and four steals to lead the Nationals who finished in double figures against Laos.

Kent Lao fueled a dominating 34-10 start in the first quarter as the Filipinos held Laos to a single digit in the next three quarters, including just two points in the second period.

Ray Hanabusa collected 17 points, six rebounds and five assists, while Lao finished with 16 points and 13 boards.

The scores:
PHILIPPINES 124—Hanabusa 17, Bartolo 9, C. Lao 16, Dionisio 12, Ramos 12, Santos 13, Sa. Lao 16, Jacinto 0, Ongsiako 0, Pascual 0, Guiterrez 0, Pumaloi 0, Fajardo 0, Cabanayan 0, Tan/Perez 12, Pamplona 12, Jaquinto 2, Cabanayan 0, Bautista 0. 34-52 34-52 30-16 124-28

MAZON: Biggest win

Orcollo, Gabica, Mazon advance

TOP Filipino hope Dennis Orcollo and veteran Antonio Gabica headed their Taiwanese rivals to barge into the last 16 with in-form Jeanel Macon in the 2011 World 9-Ball Championship on Thursday in Doha, Qatar.

Orcollo, last year's world No. 1, toppled Hsu Kai-lin, 11-8, while Gabica, an Asian Games gold medalist, downed Yang Chingshun, 11-9.

It was Macon who put up the best Filipino performance as the 36-year-old from Cavite stormed to an 11-3 lead and went on to oust Nuttini Konsunlek-Hispanen, 11-8.

Pool maestro Efren "Bata" Reyes fattened in the tournament and yielded to German Dominik Jentsch, 10-11.

Earlier, Lee Nuno Gomez bossed out in the last frame, losing to rookie-filled Ateneo Blue Eagles, 5-9.

Also advancing were Germany's Rolf Bogaert, Chinese Lee Hewen, Kuwait's Omar Al-Shahoon, the Netherlands' Rick van den Berg and Italy's Bruno Mannion.

Bogaert turned Wesendahl's Jonny Mattison, 11-7; Lee bested Canada's John Hume, 11-8; Al-Shahoon whipped compatriot Khaled Al-Mutairi, 11-6; Van den Berg edged Chinese Han Xiaotong, 11-9; and Mannion topped Taiwan's Pu Chi-hsun, 11-10.

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Olives wrests Senior Am lead by two

TEAM Olives played well enough on another trying day at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday to accumulate another 72-hole par 290 and grab a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the PEAC-Globe Business Philippine Senior Amateur golf championship.

The hefty maturity of maintained Cuchulaing in the PSL Interclub actually missed grabbing a bigger lead after finishing double bogey-double bogey for a 38 total in the event also hosted by Hercules Hosen, Titleist and Golf Digest.

Former champion Francis Gaston fired a day-best 75 to move up to second at 300, in the company of Valley Golf's Rudy Vicaldo, who carded a 76.

Danny Morales fired an 80 and trailed by four strokes even as former champion Dave Hernandez, the Calatagan golf manager, became one of the players to crash 80, with his 77 putting him just five strokes behind with Pili Sherwood-Hitt Hechanova.

Olives fired a 79 while Hechanova, the first-round leader, opened up with three straight bogeys and went on to finish with an 81.

Ricky Whanee fired an in the 80s) his final with an 80 for 330, three ahead of Manfred Dungeo, who fired an 83. Mussing R. Castillo

SALVADOR/philstar.com/No. 5.

Salvador keeps top spot over Lascuña

By Mussing R. Castillo

CARMONA, Cavite—Oliver Salvador remained in command of the ICTSI Southwoods Championship yesterday, shooting a one-under par 71 for a one-shot lead over a new and solo sponsor in tercesio Lascuña.

The 43-year-old Salvador, who opened with a course-record-tying 63 at the Mercury layout on Wednesday, missed four birdies with three bogeys for a 138 total, and barely clung to the top spot after Lascuña...

...and usual three strokes behind, even as Rufino Bautista scored a 71 to be in the company of rookie pro Clyde Mondilla (73) and the veteran Marvin Dumandan (74) at 142.

Former Miguel Tabuena returned a 76 like amateur Christopher Dylan Santos, and Hitoshi Hernando shot a 75 to all be at 143 heading into the final two rounds of the PGA million event that dangles a championship purse of P650,000.

Lascuña was nursing a two-under card after his first three holes from the 10th when he made the par-3 13th green for his only bogey. But he recovered at the back by picking up shots on hos. 4, 6 and 7 as savers on the first round of the day.

Angelo Que, the former Philippine Open champion who once called this course home, continued to struggle and posted a 72 for 146, 10 shots off the pace.

Aces Pagsanjan, the reigning Asian Tour No. 1, also matched par but fell 13 shots off the lead.

Top leading scores
138—O. Salvador 63-71, 138—R. Lascuña (amat) (66-72), 142—M. Dumandan (69-73), B. Mondilla (71-73), 143—H. Hernandez (71-72), M. Tabuena (73-70), 144—C. Santos (73-71), 145—A. Que (73-72), 146—J. Pagsanjan (74-72), Tiong Yuk Ki Frank (74-72), 147—J. Bautista (73-74), 148—J. Ramos (75-73), J. Flores (75-73), Kim Kyung Tae (74-74), 149—R. Ramos (75-74), 150—J. Rivera (77-73), J. Bautista (77-73), Mondragon (77-73), 151—J. Flores (77-74), 152—J. Bautista (78-74), 153—J. Flores (77-76), 154—J. Flores (77-77), 155—J. Flores (77-78), 156—J. Flores (77-79), 157—J. Flores (77-80), 158—J. Flores (77-81), 159—J. Flores (77-82), 160—J. Flores (77-83), 161—J. Flores (77-84), 162—J. Flores (77-85), 163—J. Flores (77-86), 164—J. Flores (77-87), 165—J. Flores (77-88), 166—J. Flores (77-89), 167—J. Flores (77-90), 168—J. Flores (77-91), 169—J. Flores (77-92), 170—J. Flores (77-93), 171—J. Flores (77-94), 172—J. Flores (77-95), 173—J. Flores (77-96), 174—J. Flores (77-97), 175—J. 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A tale of triumphant love and dedication

TUGUEGARAO, Leyte—There's a matter of a cardboard young mascot-to-be-to-be-to-be-to-be-

Federer rolls to next round

Djokovic also advances

WIMBLEDON, England—Roger Federer gave Prince Charles a bow, then gave Fabio Fognini a thumping.

With the Prince of Wales visiting Wimbledon for the first time since 1976, Federer was at his best Wednesday and beat Fognini, 6-1, 6-3, 6-0.

Federer, a six-time winner at the All England Club, won 37 of 41 points on his first serve and 21 of 23 points at the net against Fognini, an Italian ranked 69th.

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall sat in the first row of the Royal Box as Federer walked onto Centre Court for the day's first match. He and Fognini stood side by side as they bowed awkwardly toward the royals, and Charles responded with a wave and grin.

"They do brief you beforehand," Federer said. "I guess you don't do anything stupid. You bow or—I already saw some asked to bow, which is obviously no problem to do. We're thrilled for the royals family that they came to watch Wimbledon today."

Shortly after Federer's victory, rain interrupted play and the immediate road on Centre Court was closed for the first time in the tournament's 126-year history. Defending champion Novak Djokovic saw under the lights, beating Jesse Levine 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, in the final match of the day, which finished at 9:52 p.m.

"We were the thirteen," Djokovic said. "I'm honored to be in a position to play on the most recognized Center Court tradition-bound sport. Every time I step on Centre Court, you can feel the different energy from any other tournament."

Serena No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki lost under the roof to Tamira Paszek, who saved two match points in the second set and won, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Other United States champions advancing included Kim Clijsters and Andy Roddick, while 2002 US Open champion Samantha Stosur and 2011 French Open champion Li Na lost. More than a dozen matches on outside courts were postponed until Thursday.

ROGER: Federer puts on a dazzling show for a royal audience. —*AP*

Top-ranked Maria Sharapova beat Ti A (3), 6-1 when her second-round match against Tatiana Pheadorva was suspended because of darkness. Sharapova saved five set points in the first set.

Three-time Wimbledon runner-up Roddick needed three hours over two days to complete a first-round win over British wild card Jamie Baker, 7-6 (11), 6-4, 7-5. *AP*

PSA shootfest gets going

MEMBERS and officials of the Philippine Sportsmen's Association, the country's oldest media organization, compete in the 2nd PSA Shooting Championships Sen. Eric Buhain's Cup at the Armscor Shooting Range at the Manila Cinema Square.

Jhon Cardenal the Philippine Star and Kristel Satumbaga of the Manila Bulletin are the defending champions of the tournament first held last year and each serves as part of the annual fellowship activities of the group.

PSA president Ray Bancud, sports editor of Tempo, requires participants to shoot a minimum course on par rounds before they will be allowed to compete. Pia Arellano already given a bullseye to the PSA members before last year's tournament.

The tournament has the PSA, myPhone and Adidas Action 3 as major sponsors.

Avenido is ABL MVP

SAN MIGUEL Beer's Leo Avenido captured the Most Valuable Player plum yesterday just a couple of days before the veteran guard tries to lead the Beermen to the Asean Basketball League championship.

Avenido emerged as the best local performer with an average of 14.86 points per game, edging out Indonesian's Mario Wuysang and Air Asia Philippines' JC Intal.

"I play hard and aggressive in every game. I always try to do my best," the 6-foot-2 Avenido said. "It's a dream to win this but the most important thing is still the championship."

Spain ousts Portugal, books Euro final ticket

DONETSK, Ukraine—Still not pretty to watch, still zero offensive.

Spain failed to dazzle yet again in the European Championship, but still advanced to its third straight major championship final by beating Portugal, 4-2, in a penalty shootout on Wednesday following a 0-0 draw after extra time.

"We're playing better in defense than what the characteristics of our players would suggest," Spain coach Vicente del Bosque said. "That's what earns victories."

After earning penalties for the eye-catching one-touch passing that helped Spain win titles at Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup, this year's team is struggling to create chances. Against Portugal, the defending champions managed only one shot on target in regulation.

It didn't matter, though, because the Spanish still outscored Portugal when it mattered. Cesc Fabregas, who came on as a substitute in the second half of regulation time, scored the deciding penalty after Bruno Alves had hit the crossbar for Portugal's moments earlier.

Spain will now face either Germany or Italy on Sunday in the final in the Olympic Stadium in Kiev. *AP*

NCA aces head PCC derby cast

SELECT grandstand occupants from those popular breeders' groups will see action today in the Pinoy Special 4-Cock Derby featuring more than 50 fights at the Pinoy City Complex.

Majority of the participants will come from the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) with guest entries from Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) and Gamefowl Breeders Association of Negros (GF BAN) also competing.

Veteran gamefowl handlers Point and Lipay Tirante are the event's hosts.

Meanwhile, the Pinoy cockpit will hold its 25th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby on July 13 and 15.

Reservation for cockpeers is ongoing. For inquiries, call (632) 843-1 96 or (63) 920 and look for Dexter or Jessie.

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Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

AROUND 70 percent of households in the National Capital Region or about 1.5 million households do not earn a deposit account, according to the recent Consumer Finance Survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.
Soledad Bautista, Inquirer Research

Mom, 2 kids killed as truck tilts, dumps sand; pa was guiding driver

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A MOTHER and her two young children were killed after being buried by a truckload of sand weighing about 10 tons inside a construction site barracks in Quezon City last Wednesday night.

It was the father who was guiding the driver of the truck as it maneuvered on loose, downsloping ground before it tilted and accidentally dumped its load on the structure. All he could do after the tragedy was blame the driver for not heeding his warning.

SPO2 Reynaldo Bating said the concrete-and-hollow-block hut on its side next to the workers' quarters on Ilocos Clara Street in Barangay Bgy. Bonifacio at around 11 p.m.

Killed were the wife and children of the construction site caretaker, Jil Rabadejo Pating, identified the victims as Jessalyn Tabajonda, 24, and minors Jessie and Criselda, who were all asleep inside the barracks when the accident occurred.

The officer said the truck driver, Jerome Dacudao, hit a patch of loose earth which caused the hauler to tilt and lose its balance.

Rabadejo bitterly blamed the driver after losing his entire family to an instant. "I warned him about the soft portion but he ignored me and drove on," he told investigators.

It took about an hour to dig the mother's body out of the hill of sand, while that of her son Jessie, 3, was recovered at around 3 a.m. the next day. Two-year-old Criselda, the youngest, was found at around 6 a.m. or seven hours after the accident.

The three were declared dead on arrival at United Doctors Medical Center.

The rescue effort required about 30 people, including government and private rescue teams, Bating said.

Dacudao was held under police custody in lieu charges of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide, he added.

Ex-NBI chief charged for ambush

RAINBOW COALITION
Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community stage a colorful gay pride parade with the theme "Educate to End the Hate," on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, on Thursday.

IT exec, 11 others linked to slay plot vs Gatdula's deputy

By Jeannette I. Andrade

GATDULA

THE SOLE of an automatic rifle allegedly used to shoot a National Bureau of Investigation official because the perpetrators had not been fully paid led the filing of frustrated murder charges against 13 people, including former NBI head Magtanggol Gatdula and a businessman with ties to the IT provider of the agency.

While NBI Deputy Director for Technical Services Reynaldo Esmeralda was not surprised that Gatdula was implicated in the Feb. 21 attempt to liquidate him, he still related to being stunned by Steven Constantino Inc. owner Tyrone Ong's alleged involvement in the plot. Ong is also identified with Transglobal Computer Corporation Inc. (TCCI) which is in a joint venture with Raytheon Data Management Service Inc., the IT provider for the NBI's biometrics-issuance service.

"It (Ong) visited me two days after I was ambushed. He expressed concern and said, 'I just heard what happened. I just finished praying for your recovery.' And I responded with gratitude. But when he groused me on Father's Day, I did not respond because I had already been informed (that he was a suspect)," Esmeralda told the inquirer.

He said Ong was an assigned "mentor" of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1976 to which Gatdula and two other retired police officers facing cases of their own—Jesus Versoza and Glenn de la Paz—belonged.

In separately press conferences at NBI headquarters, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima announced the filing in the Department of Justice of frustrated murder charges against Gatdula and Ong, who were tagged as the principals; Herbert Villanueva, a retired policeman and Ong's security aide; Ronnie Ong, the alleged tournament officer of the group; Ramon Ramos, the alleged driver; and the alleged gunmen Teodoro Abendano.

Others charged were Ricky Dadilla, Lucy Bellen, Jose Magdalang, Gino Fernando and Nonoy Mina and Alvin Mendiones.

De Lima told reporters that Magdalang used to drive for NBI Deputy Director for Intelligence Ruel Lasala and "provided the group with information and details of Esmeralda's movements, including his departure from NBI headquarters on the night of Feb. 21."

The terms, the secretary said, were the brokerage and are awards for the planners. On the day of the ambush, they were allegedly armed with handguns and given orders to neutralize the NBI deputy director's security men.

Of the 13 respondents, seven are under NBI custody after five of them voluntarily surrendered to the bureau. The seven, De Lima said, will undergo a preliminary investigation.

She said Gatdula and Ong were implicated in a money shipment scandal involving Villanueva, who claimed that he was enticed by Ong sometime in January to lure gunmen to kill Esmeralda.

He said in a sworn statement that he overheard Gatdula ask Ong about the progress of the plot to kill Esmeralda and that he was even introduced to the gunmen by Gatdula.

NBI Bratpers, Arrest and Intelligence Division (BAID) head Jonathan Jose Gabriel told the bureau that the key to the solution of the case was the Olympic Arms 6.35-mm high-powered rifle used in the slay attempt on Esmeralda that was recovered by the NBI.

Gabriel said the gun came into the NBI's possession two weeks after the ambush after it was sold to someone else for P90,000 by Abendano after the alleged perpetrators were not paid the entire P1 million they were promised for the hit on Esmeralda.

A source told the bureau that Abendano only received P15,000; Mendiones P20,000; Ong'ot P30,000 and Bellen P40,000.

LTFRB defers cut on jeepney, taxi fares

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT has deferred an expected cut in jeepney and taxi fares following requests by public utility vehicle (PUV) owners for more time to ask their sides.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) was set to decide on a petition by the National Council for Consumer Protection (NCCP) to reduce jeepney and taxi fares in the wake of falling fuel prices.

But board member Manuel Iway on Thursday said another public hearing on the petition was scheduled on July 5.

"Suspense and rate operations ended, but members hearing because they said they were not notified of the previous hearings that's why they were not able to give their side on the issue," Iway told the boxcars.

In May, the LTFRB implemented a 50-centavo reduction in jeepney fares, bringing the minimum rate to P8 for the first four kilometers of any trip.

The reduction was triggered by an automatic fare cut provision, tied to the lowering of fuel prices, that was included in the previous approval to hike rates.

In particular, the NCCP wants jeepney fares cut by another 50 centavos to bring the basic rate to P7.50 per passenger.

The consumer group also wants the "flag down" rate for taxis cut to P38 from the current P40.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the price of gasoline has dropped by P3.92 per liter since the start of the year. The cost of diesel, slowly used by jeepneys and buses, has slipped by P6.76 per liter since January.

The average price of diesel fuel was pegged at P48.80 per liter while gasoline was at P47.91 per liter.

MALL ROBBERY SUSPECT
The Eastern Police District has released an artist's sketch of one of the suspects in the June 22 robbery at Robinsons Metro East mall in Pasig City. The man was described to be 28 to 25 years old and standing 5'4".

QC needs P1B for 2 new districts

THE QUEZON City government said it may have to raise almost P1 billion in funds for the creation of two new legislative districts, which will be carved out of District 2.

The measure, which was already approved by the Senate on final reading, will bring the city's total of members of districts to six.

The city's public information officer Gregorio Banuelos explained that District 2 was already overpopulated and its size could pose for a small municipality that the need for new districts.

It currently has 36 barangays, the largest number among the four current districts, covering the areas of Novaliches, Batasan, and portions of Commonwealth Avenue.

In a statement yesterday, the city government has identified the funding requirements for the measure as a priority in its ensuing deliberations on the 2013 city budget.

Alden Cuña, chief of staff of Mayor Herbert Bautista, said about P1 billion would be needed to fund the salaries, facilities and new equipments for the new offices.

"While Quezon City recognizes the importance of redistricting to promoting representative democracy, increasing the number of our councilors would mean added demands on the city's budget," Cuña said.

A counterpart House bill creating the new districts said it would take effect in the next national and local elections following its passage into law.

Under House Bill 4243, the fifth district will be composed of Barangays Greater Lagro, Kaunlaran, Kasiglahan, Nagkaisang Nayon, Sta. Monica, Cupang, San Bartolome, Bagong Lipunan ng Crame, Gulod and Talipapa.

The sixth district, on the other hand, will be composed of Sangandaan, Bagong Silangan and Payatas, as well as Fairview, will remain under the second legislative district.

The bill calls for the election of 12 additional city councilors to represent the two new districts, or six councilors each.

Aside SC Aurelio Estremadura

ESMERALDA

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the opening, for application or recommendation, of judicial positions in the following courts:

REGION IV
Mandaue City-Cebu
MCTC Alcoy-Boljoon-Oslob
Pilar-on
MCTC Dapdap-Sulpon
Quezon
MCTC Pacific Balayan-Nasugbu
MCTC Mabini-Tingloy-Lobo
MCTC San Francisco-San Andres
Rodriguez
MCTC Lake Shoreline Sta. Fe-Vin-Mari
REGION V
Daraga-Legazpi
MCTC San Lorenzo Ruiz-San Vicente

Calapan-Bansa
MCTC Bulalacao-San Miguel
MCTC Pangantucan-Kiba-Talavera-Lantapan
MCTC Panabo-Carmen-Braulio
REGION VII
Bogo-Medellin
MCTC Pinamungahan-Aloguinsan
MCTC Minglanilla-Cebu
MCTC Mandaue-Cebu
REGION VIII
Baybay-Matalom
MCTC Lucena-Sariaya
MCTC Bonavon
Northern Samar
MCTC Gamay-Mapanas

Applications or recommendations, together with six copies of accomplished Personal Data Sheet (forms are downloadable from the JBC Website http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph), must be submitted not later than 30 July 2012 (Monday) to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. Nos. 552-9510; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address: jbc@jbc.judiciary.gov.ph & jbc@supremecourtmail.gov.ph). To facilitate the processing of applications, the STATION HOUSE assigned to each court as appearing in the Announcement posted in the JBC Website should be indicated in the application. Those who applied (or indicated in their Personal Data Sheets their preferred courts) before these vacancies were declared open must manifest in writing before the deadline for submission of applications whether they are still interested to pursue their application.

Interested persons or recommended ones must submit the following not later than 14 August 2012 (Tuesday):

Clearances from the NBI, Ombudsman, PNP, Police Clearance, Barangay, Office of the Bar Confidant, and employer (Treasurer of Judicial Records)	Income Tax Return for the past two (2) years; Certificate of Net Worth and Tax Liabilities, and Redeemth for the past two (2) years	Reports of medical examination and psych/ medical certificate with comprehensive psych results, both conducted/issued within 3 months prior to the filing of application
Clearances from the Office of the Court Administrator, Supreme Court, Manila	Certificate of Compliance with or Exemption from, BIR Withholding Tax System	Proof of Philippine Citizenship

Previous applicants who are applying for the above-mentioned vacancies must inquire from the Secretariat about their lacking or out of date application requirements and must submit them not later than 14 August 2012.

The JBC likewise makes it known to the public that the following are applicants for judgeship positions in the following courts:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): **MANILA (RBC 1, 14, 25 and/or 56):** AGAS, Viktoria G.P.; ANTONIO, Nicanor V.; ARCILLO, Ana A.; GONZALES-DE LEON, Carmel Lindo-Z.; BIEN, Madrilon G.; BULAUITAN, Ambibo C.; CAMELLO-MARIN, Glenda K.; CASIMAN, BUMLAO, Joy N.; CATIVO, Teopisto N.; DOLANTE, Silvino G.; DE LEON, Modesto M.; DE VILLA-ROSERO, Amy Ana L.; ESMERO, Redonna C.; FLORENDO, Alpino P.; GABUYAN-MEJORADA, Marina; GARONG, Ricardo; GUIAPOS-RICABLE, Alicia Aurelia; ITURRALDE, Philbert; LACORTE, Anna Crisanta C.; LUBENGO, Frank E.; MAGSEJA, Rachel Liz Gail R.; MALANGUIS, Arthur C.; MANUEL, Ma. Luisa; MAPA, Liberato E.; PABULAR, Ramon D.; PARCO, Peter J.; RAMOS, Glenda M.; RAMOS-SUMANG, Marilou D.; SAMANIEGO, Marvin Jude S.; SAN GILBERT-SITO, Emely L.; STA. CRUZ, Manuel C. II; SUSIM, Josefino A.; SY, Cornelio K.;

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT (MeTC): **MANILA (RBC 2 and/or 12):** ABRAGO, Ruben I.; ABREGUEL, Mayumi M.; ACAL, Flerian S.; ALEJANDRO, Jose Jesse P.; AMBOS, Vicki M.; AMOLA, Allan D.; AQUINTON, Arturo III N.; AZUCENA, Rodolfo, Jr. F.; BEDANA, Gina A.; BELLA, Jovenal N.; BERNAL, Bernard P.; BILLONES, Ma. Concepcion A.; BINCHES-EANDEN, Cecilia; BONGON, Maria Cristina G.; BUENAVENTURA, Caridad; CALUMPONG, Michelle C.; CANTERO, Ma. Antonia L.; CONCEPCION-DIALOM, Maureen T.; CORMINAL, Djorfe R.; DAGUNA-BIDONG, Dorothy Grace R.; DAÑOSLAN, Cresdonio J.; DANTE-ELEFANTE, Mary Karen P.; DELGUERA-GUERRERO, Ma. Christina; FONACIER, Pepsodon S.; FORTALEZA, Eric S.; GALLEVO-LOYO, Rhea S.; GELLADA, Lucille M.; GERARDO, Ma. Lourdes C.; GUTIERREZ, Ma. Victoria V.; HAGUANG-ENGAPAN, Caridine; HILARIO, Mary Catherine P.; JAFCON-PEREGRINA, Dianne Frey J.; LLADRES, Lady Richards S.; LUGA, Herbert A.; LUSTRE, Irene M.; MAGAYANES, Shannon R.; MAKASIRI, Jorge Jr. S.; MEDINA, John Benedict D.; MINA-AGUILA, Sidhia; MONCAN, Remedios L.; MORENO, John Kenneth T.; ORQUIOLA-BOLDEZ, Gracious Gertrudis; PACIS, Ma. Victoria A.; PACLIBAR, Rona Mae; PAGUIRIGAN, Amanda D.; PASCUAL, Rochelle O.; PASION-RAMOS, Ruth S.; RAMOJNE, Angelo M.; RIVERA, Anne Perpetual S.; SADSAD, Gerardo A.; SANTOS, Jose Theodoro L.C.; SANTOS, Maria S.; SINGSON, Trina D.; SOLANSON, Elizabeth Jr. C.; SY, Jonas T.; TERRADO, Ronald Que; UY-AMANSEC, Darya Grace L.; ZAMARADDA-VALDERAS, Maribel U.; VICTOR, Jerome T.; VILLAROSA, Sandra; VILLAVERDE, Richard V.; WENCESLAO, Ma. Victoria C.; **MALABON CITY (RBC 170):** ABRAGO, Soliam I.; ACAL, Flerian S.; ADARLO, Elena B.; ALEJANDRO, Jose Jesse P.; AMBOS-AMANO, Elena K.; ARCEO-PARAS, Esperanza G.; AMOLA, Allan D.; AZUCENA, Rodolfo, Jr. F.; BEDANA, Gina A.; BELLA, Jovenal N.; BILLONES, Ma. Concepcion A.; BOLANTE-PRADO, Dolly Rose E.; CABALDAO, Maria Celestina G.; CABALLEGAN, Anna Rita G.A.; CALUMPONG, Michelle Cristina M.; CAMARADDA-VALDERAS, Maribel U.; CANTERO, Ma. Antonia L.; CORDOVA, Nonito Cesar A.; LOPEZ, Gina Gabuelan; Crescencio J.; CASETE-ELEFANTE, Mary Karen P.; GALLEVO-LOYO, Rhea S.; GOLANCO, Jayrich M.; GORDOSPE, Colin C.; GUERRERO, Ma. Christina Isabel F.; HAGUANG-ENGAPAN, Caridine; JUNIDOR, Maria Cristina G.; LLADRES, Lady Richards S.; LUGA, Herbert A.; LOPEZ, Cesar Jr. R.; MAGDAMIMES, Sharon M.; MANUEL, Ma. Luisa; MARAÑO-ELEFANTE, Mary Karen P.; MARQUEZ, Ramon C.; MENDOZA, Reinhold U.; MORENO, John Kenneth T.; ORQUILLA-ARAD, Ma. Victoria G.; PAGALING, Erica P.; PASION-RAMOS, Ruth S.; RAMOS, Angelo M.; RAÑINO, Henry R.; RIVERA, Anne Perpetual S.; SADSAD, Gerardo A.; SANTOS, Emmanuel Jesus P.; SANTOS, Maria S.; SORIANO, Dionisio Alexander B.; SUAREZ, Ferdinand S.; SY, Jonas T.; TORIBIO, Josefinaon B.; TORRIJOS, Ronald G.; VILLAROSA, Salvador, Jr. C.; **MANDALUYONG CITY (RTC and/or MeTC):** ABRAGO, Ruben I.; AGAS, Viktoria G.P.; ANTONIO, Nicanor V.; BAUTISTA, Sylvester D.; ALEJANDRO, Jose Jesse P.; AMBOS-AMANO, Elena K.; AMSON, Ma. M.; AMOLA, Allan D.; AZUCENA, Rodolfo, Jr. F.; BEDANA, Gina A.; BELDAD, Jerry C.; BELLA, Jovenal N.; BERNAL, Bernard P.; BILLONES, Ma. Concepcion A.; BOLANTE-PRADO, Dolly Rose E.; CABALDAO, Maria Celestina G.; CAÑAL-BGAN, Anna Rita G.A.; CALUMPONG, Michelle M.; CANARI-BAUTISTA, Veronica C.; CANTERO, Ma. Antonia L.; CASIPENO, Hermenegildo C.; CORMINAL, Djorfe R.; DAGUNA-BIDONG, Dorothy Grace R.; DARAGUAN, Gloredmin J.; DELA CRUZ, Cesar J.; DIMALAN, Leyland O.; FORNIER, Pagsedan S.; FORTALEZA, Eric S.; GALLEVO-LOYO, Rhea S.; GERARDO, Ma. Lourdes C.; GUERRERO, Ma. Christina Isabel F.; HAGUANG-ENGAPAN, Caridine; HILARIO, Mary Catherine P.; JUANSON, Maria Cristina G.; LABCANG, Cesar Hernan U.; LLADRES, Lady Richards S.; LUNAS, Lucille Ann C.; LUGA, Herbert A.; LOPEZ, Cesar Jr. R.; LUSTRE, Irene M.; MAGAYANES, Shannon M.; MARQUINTAL Jr, Rodolfo S.; MENDOZA, Jorge Jr. S.; MEDINA, John Benedict D.; MINA-AGUILA, Sidhia; MONCAN, Remedios L.; MORENO, John Kenneth T.; OGA-BRUAL, Amalia B.; ORQUIOLA-MENDEZ, Gracious Gertrudis G.; PADILLA-AMIO, Ma. Victoria G.; PACIS, Ma. Victoria A.; PACLIBAR, Rona Mae; PASION-RAMOS, Ruth S.; RAMOS, Angelo M.; RIVERA, Anne Perpetual S.; SADSAD, Gerardo A.; SANTOS, Emmanuel Jesus P.; SANTOS, Ma. Theodora L.; SANTOS, Reia D.; SOLANSON, Eduardo Jr. C. (also an applicant for SBTC 66 & 68); SORIANO, Dionisio Alexander B.; SUAREZ, Ferdinand S.; SY, Jonas T.; TORRIJOS, Ronald G.; ZAMARADDA-VALDERAS, Maribel U.; VICTOR, Jerome T.; VILLAROSA, Salvador, Jr. C.; VILLENA, Vincent L.; YAP, Jose H.

The public may submit to the JBC sworn complaint, report, or opposition (in the legible copies) against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than 6 July 2012 (Monday).

28 June 2012.

ENRIQUETA E. VIDAL
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

Friends hail Mario O'Hara: Always a joy, 'ultimate crush'

By Marinell R. Cruz
Entertainment

AWARD-winning actor-director Mario O'Hara had refused a blood transfusion which could have prolonged his life.

O'Hara was diagnosed with acute leukemia only this month. He died on Sunday after three weeks of confinement at the Jose de Dios Hospital in Pasay City. He was 68.

"Prior to his death, his doctor said Mario was able to successfully fight his leukemia. It was just that his hemoglobin count had been low and they would have recommended him to stop," said O'Hara's best friend, playwright and theater actor Frank G. Olivario. "So, was a preaching Jehovah's Witness, don't why he refused a blood transfusion."

Jehovah's Witnesses believe the body cradled and nurtured by blood and blood transfusions were an emergency cases, according to wikipedia.org. They are also prohibited from donating or storing their own blood for transfusion, and this is a "incompatible religious stand."

"Mario told me, 'My just follow what the Bible says,'" Olivario told the inquirer at O'Hara's wake at Saint Mary Upper Room in Magallanes on Wednesday night. "I guess he had a church he could no more become in our last conversation, he cried, hugged and told me he loved me and that I was his best friend too."

Olivario first worked with O'Hara at the Philippine Educational Theater Association or Peta in the late 1960s.

"We were both actors. We became really close in the 1970s when we did several projects together," he said. Rizwa played one of the lead in O'Hara's 1998 dramatic film, "Relasi sa Halimuyong Lata."

O'HARA. Great director made time for younger colleagues.

"What was weird about Mario was that he never remember himself a really good actor. He was never full of himself. He became friends because I never heard him say anything negative about other people's work."

Actress Raquel Villavicencio said O'Hara's death was "such a big loss. Mario was a joy to work with, whether as an actor or as director. He always saw the humor in any situation."

Villavicencio last teamed up with O'Hara for the 2011 TV5 drama series, "Sa Ngalan ng Ina," which featured Nora Aunor. "Mario told me he just wanted to have me in the project if not for 'Nora,'" she said. "I felt that on the beginning, the taping was so stressful for him. He was stressed to doing soaps."

The actress said she was shocked to hear of O'Hara's passing. "I had no idea that he was ill. He was eating very well, he looked fit. He had a suave tenth. He loved ballroom. There was no physical indication at all," she said.

Cannes Best Director Brillante Mendoza said he considered O'Hara as one of the most revered Filipino filmmakers. The would come to my film screenings and even ask questions during the Q and A portion. From many great directors would make time for his younger colleagues?" he said.

He added: "He don't come as a big shock to me. I was just with him a few days before the Grey (Award) and I left for Tawi-Tawi to shoot for the movie 'Thy Womb'). We had dinner together. He texts even joking about how old, or young, we were, from joking happened so fast. I'm still in shock. Even Adlawan, admitted having a big crush on O'Hara, whom she first worked with in the play 'Salve Cosio.'"

"He was my ultimate crush. I portrayed Portia, wife to Mario's first love, Yah had rebuff Emilio Garcia's advances. When the run was coming to an end, I kissed him for real," she recalled.

Bembol Roco, who worked with O'Hara in the classic "Tatlong Baraang Malalang Diyos" (1976), said he regretted not knowing about the director's illness sooner. "I felt bad that I wasn't able to visit him in the hospital," he told the business. "He was an intelligent and talented man. I'd known him for so long and he was always so positive, I will miss him. We had a lot of fun together."

A necrological Mass has been arranged for O'Hara by his relatives and friends at Saint Mary Upper Parish on Friday night.

Annabelle lashes back at Nadia, Amalia from home turf Cebu

By Doris E. Bongcac
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Week her home turf, Annabelle Rama launched a volley of counterchargs against her sisters Nadia and Amalia and their alleged husband-subversants in show business.

The feisty talent manager has filed a string of libel charges against former actresses Nadia Montenegro and Amalia Fuentes and a movie executive for allegedly insulting her through the social media.

Rama—who has been disabled by her cousin, Mayor Mike Rama, to run for Congress to represent Cebu City's north district in the 2013 elections—put Rabanas Gerry, manager Esparza, Cebu City as main witness in her complaints.

She was accompanied by her brother, Barangay Banilad chair George Rama, and lawyer Rose Rachel Ramos Uret in filing the complaints in the city prosecutor's office on Thursday afternoon.

The complaints cited Montenegro for 10 counts of libel and Fuentes, Iskwalitan in the complaint by her off-screen name Amalia Mukhlach) for eight counts.

She also sued movie reporter Otoko Abad for seven counts of libel.

Rama said she also planned to sue Montenegro for damages for accusing her of faking the contents of Montenegro's children who were earlier under the talent manager's care.

Prior to the filing, Rama held a media conference at a restaurant, flanked by barbiset Eddie Stotesbury, son Ellen and grandchildren Lorin and Winter who were daughters of actress Stella Gutierrez.

Rama said she filed the libel charges in Cebu City because she is a native and a registered voter here. She also expressed confidence in the impartiality of the local judges.

In the complaints, Rama recalled that Montenegro and Fuentes posted several "libelous" comments on their Twitter accounts. Montenegro's posts were published last with tweets posted from Jan. 30 to April 22, she said.

Fuentes' "malicious and libelous" public statements, on the other hand, were meant "to bring disrepute, scorn or ridicule upon me," the complainant added.

Abad, meanwhile, used his Facebook account to malign her with posts made from January to May, Rama claimed.

Rama is facing charges for 11 counts of libel filed by Montenegro in a Quezon City court. Fuentes also lodged complaints against Rama for 11 counts of libel in the city prosecutor's office.

For less than P3.50 a day, PhilHealth vows enlarged benefits for OFWs

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has enlarged the benefits for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their dependents as part of its commitment to provide universal health coverage to all Filipinos.

The enlarged benefit package covers 51 OFWs' illnesses and conditions, up from 23 illnesses and conditions previously, PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Eduardo Banzon said.

"We are making sure our OFWs get the most out of their hard-earned money, including their PhilHealth contributions," Banzon said.

The enlarged benefit package includes coverage for cancer treatment, kidney transplant, heart surgery, and other major illnesses.

PhilHealth Senior Vice President Jesus Javier Limlingan said the enlarged benefit package is available to OFWs who are members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Limlingan said the OFWs only need to pay P3,350 a year or P279 a month to avail of the enlarged benefit package.

"That is less than P3.50 a day. We are making sure our OFWs get the most out of their hard-earned money, including their PhilHealth contributions," Limlingan said.

Banzon said PhilHealth has also signed memoranda of agreement with 10 hospitals in the Philippines to provide the enlarged benefit package to OFWs.

The hospitals are the Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine General Hospital, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Rizal Medical Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center, and Ospital ng Makati.

Banzon said PhilHealth is also negotiating with other hospitals to provide the enlarged benefit package to OFWs.

Limlingan said the OFWs only need to present their PhilHealth identification card to avail of the enlarged benefit package.

"Kung may PhilHealth card sila, hindi na sila magbabayad. Libre na ang lahat," Limlingan said.

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Ambush kills Caloocan exec; wife critical

ANTI-TRAFFICKING unit operatives arrested an official of Caloocan City was killed while his wife was seriously wounded in an ambush Thursday morning.

Bobby Ventura succumbed to his gunshot wounds in the head and body, while his wife, Beng, a consultant doctor, remained in critical condition at the hospital after taking a bullet in the stomach.

The two were leaving Mass with his wife in a government vehicle when two men armed with pistols opened fire on the victims on Rizal Avenue, Bagong Silang, at around 10:30 a.m., according to Chief Insp. Romulo Pacilla.

He says was the victim's discharge supervising the transportation of garbage trucks and waste disposal systems with private contractors in the northernmost area of Caloocan. Aniñao Filmer Mangosay

India says Pakistan aided a planner of Mumbai attacks

NEW DELHI—India's home minister on Wednesday said there was new evidence of Pakistani state support for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, citing information provided by Abu Jindal, an Indian man suspected of being one of the planners.

The home minister's comments say that Jindal, who was recently captured by the Indian police, and five others guided the Mumbai attacks from a "control room" in Karachi, Pakistan. The authorities in India say they have recordings of phone conversations during the attack that included Jindal's voice.

In a news conference in Washington, Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said that Jindal confirmed during an interrogation that he was in the Karachi control room that had given orders to the 10 gunmen who killed more than 160 people in a three-day attack on multiple locations.

"Some state support was there for these people," Chidambaram said, referring to men in the control room with Jindal. And he claimed that Jindal had identified some of the others.

"The way we are going has put us in a good light and put Pakistan in a bad light," he added. "It is Pakistan which is under pressure and not India."

Pakistan has repeatedly rejected Indian accusations that its top military spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, was involved in the attacks, which are thought to have been carried out by the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

On Wednesday, Rehman Malik, a senior adviser to the Pakistani president on interior issues, denied the new charges. "Why are you blaming Pakistan?" he asked in a news conference. "He is your citizen. You had to control your citizens."

Pakistan has removed Indian drone years ago that it had in "wars Taliban," Malik said. "See the result. I wish best of luck to India."

Indian intelligence experts said that the arrest of Jindal was more significant than that of Ajmal Qasab, the last known surviving attacker.

Ajit Doval, former chief of India's intelligence bureau, said of Jindal, "he is a planner, organiser, motivator and trainer. Qasab is only a one-event man."

New York Times News Service

Republic of the Philippines

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE TRUE-UP ADJUSTMENTS OF FUEL AND PURCHASED POWER COSTS (TAFPPCI) AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE-RELATED COSTS (TAFERC) UNDER THE RULES FOR THE AUTOMATIC RECOVERY OF MONTHLY FUEL AND PURCHASED POWER COSTS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE-RELATED COSTS BY THE INVESTMENT POWER CORPORATION, AS AMENDED, WITH PRAYER FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2011-113 RC

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Applicant

x-----x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on August 13, 2012, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) filed an application for the True-up Adjustments of Fuel and Purchased Power Costs (TAFPPCI) and Foreign Exchange Related Costs (TAFerc) under the Rules for the Automatic Recovery of Monthly Fuel and Purchased Power Costs and Foreign Exchange-Related Costs by the Investment Power Corporation (IPC), with prayer for the issuance of provisional authority.

In the said application, PSALM alleged, among others, the following:

1. The filing of the instant application is pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9136 (R.A. 9136), otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA), particularly Section 43 (e), Rule 3 thereof, Rule 18 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and Rules for the Automatic Recovery of Monthly Fuel and Purchased Power Costs and Foreign Exchange-Related Costs by the IPC (AR-FPA Rules), as amended.

2. Article V, Section 3 of the ACRM Rules, as amended, provide for the post-verification by the Commission, at least every twelve (12) months of the recovery of the Fuel and Purchased Power Costs Adjustment (FPPCA) and Foreign Exchange-Related Cost Adjustment (FXA) in computing the actual allowable costs incurred for the period with the actual collections for the same period generated by the generation rates.

3. In its Motion for Clarification dated December 10, 2010 which was resolved by the Commission on December 13, 2010, it sought clarification as to the time frame for the filing of the initial true-up application and the automatic cost adjustment (ACA) and as to the subsequent true-up applications.

4. On July 26, 2011, it resolved an Urgent Motion June 29, 2011, wherein the Commission stated that it shall consider as immediate rectification of the ACM Rules, viz., PPPC and FX Cost, it was directed by the Re-the Foreign Adjustments submit twenty (20) days from receipt hereof, without further extension.

5. Hence, the timely filing of the instant application for the TAFPPCI and TAFuR.

6. The true-up adjustment application covers the billing period March 2010 until February 2011. It has fully complied with the monthly reporting requirements as required under Article II, Section 1 of the ACRM Rules, hereto submitting calculations for the monthly, January) pursuant to the incremental/decremental adjustments in FPPC and FX Costs, as well as supporting documents, as evidenced by the receipt of the Commission of ten (10) compliances.

I. TAFPPC

7. In accordance with Article V, Section 3 of the ACRM Rules, it computed the TAFPPC based on the following formula:

$$TAFPPC = FPPCA_{true} - FPPC_{fuel} - FPPC_{pur}$$

Where:

$FPPCA_{true}$ = Actual allowable fuel and purchased power costs from a two-period

$FPPC_{fuel}$ = Fuel and purchased power costs billed through the fuel FPPC approved base rate for the test period

$FPPC_{pur}$ = Recommended fuel and purchased power costs from customers

A. First Component of the TAFPPC: $FPPCA_{true}$

8. $FPPCA_{true}$ is determined by getting the: (i) allowable fuel cost; and (ii) allowable purchased power cost covering the relevant billing period (March 2010 to February 2011).

(i) Computation of the Allowable Fuel Cost

9. The Allowable Fuel Cost is calculated based on the lower of (a) the Heat Rate Cap set by the Commission through its Order dated April 15, 2011 in ERC Case No. 2009-051 RC, and (b) the computed actual heat rate per plant.

10. The Actual Heat Rate per plant is calculated by taking into consideration the following factors:

a. Fuel Consumption (with and without generation);
b. Net Energy Generation (gross generation less station use) with generation;
c. Plant Heating Values; and
d. Other Commission Factors (e.g. Fuel Density) relevant to the determination of the actual heat rate.

11. The computed Actual Heat Rates per plant are then compared with the Heat Heat Rate Caps approved by the Commission.

12. In the event the computed Actual Heat Rate is lower than the Heat Rate Cap set forth by the Commission, the Actual Fuel Cost based on the Actual Heat Rate is considered as the Allowable Fuel Cost. Otherwise, if the Heat Rate Cap is lower than the Actual Heat Rate, the Allowable Fuel Cost is calculated by multiplying the Actual Fuel Cost with the ratio of the ERC-approved Heat Rate Cap and Actual Heat Rate.

13. The Allowable Fuel Costs were calculated for the following power plants:

Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Sual Coal	Cebu Coal	Agus 7 (IPP)
Masinloc Coal	Cebu Oil-Based	Agus 6
Pagbilao Coal	Cebu Geothermal	Agus 4
Ilijan	Tongonan	Agus 1, 2 & 3
San Roque	Leyte Geothermal	Pulangi V
Magat	Bohol Diesel	
Angat		

(ii) Computation of the Allowable Purchased Power Cost

14. In the computation of the Allowable Purchased Power Cost, it considered, whichever is lower, (a) the actual purchased power cost and (b) the cap on purchased power costs (PPC) under the effective pricing of the Commission and the then Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) governing the following power plants:

Luzon	Case No.
Avion 1	ERC Case No. 98-34
Avion 1 Main Hydro Corporation (Benguet Elec. Hydro Energy Integrated	ERC Case No. 93-113
Bakun Hydro	ERC Case No. 2008-012 RC
Hedcor/Sibulan	ERC Case No. 96-353
Hedcor/Tudaya	ERC Case No. 2003-146 RC
Lamut Hydro	ERC Case No. 2007-140 RC
Mini-Hydro	ERC Case No. 2001-814

Visayas	Case No.
Cebu Private Power Corporation (CPPC)	ERC Case No. 2004-035 RC
Mirant Power Corporation (CEDC) (TPC Land Co.)	ERC Case No. 2004-035 RC
TPC Mining	

Mindanao	Case No.
PSPC	ERC Case No. 98-33
SMEC	ERC Case No. 98-33
Mindanao Coal	ERC Case No. 2007-137
SR Agus	ERC Case No. 98-34

15. For power plants which were privatized or transferred to a local government unit (LGU) within the March 2010 to February 2011 billing period, only the Allowable Fuel and Purchased Power Costs (per E-privatization or turn-over were included in the computations. Shown below is the list of plants that were privatized or turned-over and its cut-off date:

Plant	Cut-Off Date
San Roque	June 26, 2008
Pagbilao	July 25, 2009
Ilijan	July 25, 2009

16. The instant application likewise considered, in the determination of the allowable Purchased Power Costs (PPC), the costs subsequently paid by the Power Producer (PP) pursuant to the Incremental Generation Adjustment (IGA) and/or Capacity Fee Adjustment (CFA) as provided for in their respective contracts.

17. The instant application similarly includes the escalation rates in the Rehabilitation, Operation Maintenance and Management Agreement of the 650 MW Malaya Thermal Power Plant Complex. While the PPA provided the agreed-upon performance benchmark rates during the billing periods, nevertheless, these rates are now included in the instant application considering that the same costs were not passed by from May 2011.

18. The Allowable Fuel and Purchased Power Costs included in the sale petition reflect only those costs incurred by the Captive Customers (TCC) customers. These are defined by deducting from the Total Allowable Fuel and Purchased Power Cost, the Fuel and Purchased Power Costs corresponding to the energy sales from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) during the preparation of the WESM-related base rates for the total kilowatt-hour sales of the grid.

B. Second Component of the TAFPPC: $FPPCA_{fuel}$

19. $FPPCA_{fuel}$ is the fuel and purchased power costs billed through the ERC-approved base rate for the billing period. It is calculated by multiplying the TSC rates in the Fuel and purchased power adjustment (e.g. MBA of the corresponding approved Energy Conversion Rate (ECR) under the ERC Case no. 2008-052 RC.

C. Third Component of the TAFPPC: $FPPCA_{pur}$

20. $FPPCA_{pur}$ refers to the recovered or billed fuel and purchased power cost from customers through the monthly recovery/refund of incremental/decremental adjustments in FPPC. This is calculated by getting the total FPPA included from customers as a result of the issuance of Power Bills.

TOTAL TAFPPC

21. Considering the foregoing, and pursuant to all the relevant Decisions and Orders issued by the Commission, it calculated the TAFPPC for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao covering the billing period March 2010 to February 2011 as follows:

Grid	$FPPCA_{true}$ (in PhP and Php/kWh)	$FPPC_{fuel}$ (in PhP and Php/kWh)	$FPPC_{pur}$ (in PhP and Php/kWh)	TAFPPC (in PhP and Php/kWh)
Luzon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Visayas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mindanao	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

II. TAFuR

22. In accordance with Article II, Section 5 of the ACRM Rules, it calculated the TAFuR based on the following formula:

$$TAFuR = FxA_{true} - FxA_{fuel}$$

Where:

TAFuR = True-up Adjustment of Foreign Exchange Related Costs in Peso

FxA_{true} = Actual Foreign Exchange-Related costs for the Test Period

FxA_{fuel} = Recovered/Billed Foreign Exchange-Related Cost from Customers

A. First Component of TAFuR: FxA_{true}

23. FxA_{true} is calculated based on the difference between: a) principal debt payments made during the current billing period, multiplied by the Philippine Peso using the actual exchange rate as of the date of payment; and b) principal debt payments during the same period computed by multiplying the same principal payments with the peso exchange rate as of the date stated in ERC case (latest February 29, 2012).

24. The final $_{true}$ is subject to or reconciled to reflect costs associated with TSC auditfindings. Similar to the adjustments in the forced Allowable Fuel and Purchased Cost, FxA_{true} is derived by deducting from the Total Foreign Exchange-Related Costs, the Foreign Exchange-Related Costs associated with sales from WESM using the proportion of the WESM Kilowatt-hour sales to the total Kilowatt-hours sales of the grid.

B. Second Component of TAFuR: FxA_{fuel}

25. FxA_{fuel} refers to the recovered/billed foreign exchange-related costs through the monthly recovery/refund of incremental/decremental adjustments in FCA. This is calculated by getting the total FCA included from customers accrued from the issuance of power bills.

TOTAL TAFuR

26. Considering the foregoing, and pursuant to all the relevant Decisions and Orders issued by the Commission, it calculated the TAFuR for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao covering the billing period March 2010 to February 2011 as follows:

Grid	FxA_{true} (in PhP and Php/kWh)	FxA_{fuel} (in PhP and Php/kWh)	TAFuR (in PhP and Php/kWh)
Luzon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Visayas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mindanao	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

III. ADJUSTMENT TO TAFPPC and TAFuR

27. The TAFPPCA and TAFuR are adjusted to reflect debit/credit reconciliations or customers' power bills. Debited and/or true adjustments are issued to customers in order to reflect the adjustments in Customer's Power Bills due to adjustments in sales and consumption of FPPCA and FxA. Shown below is the summary of the debit/credit adjustments per grid:

Grid	FPPCA and FxA Debit/Credit Total Adjustments (PhP)
Luzon	[illegible]
Visayas	[illegible]
Mindanao	[illegible]

28. In summary, the Total True-up Adjustment for the billing period March 2010 to February 2011 is as follows:

Grid	TAFPPCA	TAFuR	FPPCA and FxA Debit/Credit Total Adjustments (PhP)	Total True-up Adjustment (PhP)
Luzon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Visayas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mindanao	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

29. It seeks the Commission's approval for the recommendations of the above-stated Total True-Up Adjustment for the billing period March 2010 to February 2011. It further requests the approval of the Commission to recover the above-stated Total True-up Adjustment over the following recovery periods:

Proposed Spread (No. of Years)

Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
3	3	3

30. Applying the proposed recovery period, the Peso per kilowatt-hour (PhP/kWh) rate for the relevant grids as follows:

Grid	TAFPPCA (PhP/kWh) A	TAFuR (PhP/kWh) B	FPPCA and FxA Debit/Credit Total Adjustments (PhP/kWh) C	Total True-up Adjustment (PhP/kWh) A+B+C
Luzon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Visayas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mindanao	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

31. The above-stated PhP/kWh rates were computed by dividing the True-up Adjustments with their respective sales.

32. Pursuant to a provisional authority to be issued to implement the "Interim Adjustments" in PhP/kWh rate to compensate for financial impacting, allowing it to adequately comply with its mandates under the EPIRA of equitable and IPP/ Contract obligations and directed continuous customer service manner.

33. Pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, the Commission may exercise its discretion by granting provisional authority or interim relief prior to a final decision.

34. Condescendingly that the interim relief sought that may be granted by the Commission shall be subject to adjustments and refunds, in the event that the Commission may impose after hearing and final determination of the Commission; and

35. It further prays that the following True-up Adjustment (TAFPPC + TAFuR) covering the billing period March 2010 to February 2011 and consistent with Section 16, Rule 9 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the EPIRA be approved by the Commission:

Grid	TAFPPCA (in PhP and PhP/kWh)	TAFuR (in PhP and PhP/kWh)	FPPCA and FxA Debit/Credit Total Adjustments (in PhP and PhP/kWh)	Total True-up Adjustment (in PhP and PhP/kWh)
Luzon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Visayas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mindanao	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The Commission has set the application for hearing on the following schedule:

Date and Time	Venue	Particulars
	Luzon	
July 10, 2012 (Tuesday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Delta Center 1 Building, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	Jurisdictional Requirements/ Presentation, Pre-Trial Conference and Evidentiary Hearing
	Visayas	
July 30, 2012 (Monday) at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.)	Energy Regulatory Operations Office (ERO), Visayas Avenue Building, Diliman, Quezon City	Jurisdictional Requirements/ Presentation, Pre-Trial Conference and Evidentiary Hearing
	Mindanao	
July 31, 2012 (Tuesday) at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.)	Energy Regulatory Operations Office (ERO), Mindanao Avenue Building, Diliman, Quezon City	Jurisdictional Requirements/ Pre-Trial Conference and Evidentiary Hearing

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of this proceeding may become a party to the filing, at any time prior to the initial hearing, and subject to the requirements in the ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of this proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and his way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of this proceeding may file their comments or opposition or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicant concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the documents filed or orally presented should state the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with a copy of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. However, any such request and payment therefor shall not bind the applicant to serve pleadings and papers issued by the Commission during the course of the case.

WITNESS, the Honorable Chairperson, **ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-BUCOY**, and the Commission Commissioners, **MARIA TERESA A.R.D. CASTAÑEDA, JOSE C. REYES, ALFREDO J. MON** and **GLORIA VICTORIA C. TAN-TAMUNO**, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 11th day of June, 2012 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN**
Executive Director IV

(2) [illegible]

[illegible]

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

US states to target illegals after Supreme Court ruling

US states with immigration laws modeled after Arizona say they hope to implement their own legislation soon after a mixed Supreme Court ruling let stand the most controversial element of Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Five states followed Arizona's example in crafting laws requiring police to notify federal authorities when they have reasonable suspicion that someone is in the country illegally, and sometimes imposed other restrictions as well.

Those states—Alabama, Georgia, Utah, Indiana and South Carolina...have feared themselves in federal court just like Arizona, facing lawsuits...either from immigrant rights groups, the Department of Justice, or both.

Now that the Supreme Court has weighed in on Arizona's law, upholding police checks on immigration status while throwing out three other provisions, lawmakers that forged on that ruling are moving forward, with an eye from the states that they will soften parts of their laws.

In South Carolina, state officials are moving full steam ahead with preparations to implement their law, which provides for a special Immigration Enforcement Unit of the state police, complete with special uniforms and marked cars.

The state police began hiring and training officers for the unit in January, and will be ready to start enforcing the "legal stop" provision in mid-July if an injunction is lifted, Department of Public Safety spokesperson Sheriff Isabelle said.

Portions of South Carolina's immigration law, signed into law in 2011, have been blocked by a federal judge.

As in Arizona, South Carolina's law requires police to check the immigration status of anyone they stop if there is a reasonable suspicion the person is in the country illegally.

One part of South Carolina's law not addressed directly by the Supreme Court's Arizona ruling makes it a felony for anyone to knowingly harbor or transport an illegal immigrant.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson said he would ask the Court of Appeals to let that provision take effect. State Senator Larry Martin, who sponsored the immigration legislation, said Monday the state would continue to uphold the state's law all the way to the Supreme Court.

In Alabama, where the law requires police to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally if the person cannot produce documentation when stopped, Solicitor General John Neiman said the high court decision did not jeopardize any provisions already in force.

The Alabama law, viewed as the toughest state immigration law in the country, also requires public schools to determine students' immigration status, a provision that was temporarily blocked in October by a US appeals court.

That state's law came under fire last year when police briefly detained two foreign engineers in the state's important auto industry for failing to produce proof of legal residency.

Some of the key provisions in the Alabama law are threatened by the Supreme Court ruling, Paul Nowlin, a professor of labor law at the University of Alabama School of Law, said.

The federal judge overseeing the legal challenges against Alabama's immigration law has already asked for a supplemental briefing by July 6, Neiman said.

Utah's bill requires law enforcement officers to investigate citizens of anyone detained for a felony or serious misdemeanor and the arrestees of that state's law, Stephen Sandstrom, believes its provisions are in line with the Supreme Court ruling. Reuters

QUEEN Elizabeth II shakes hands with Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister and former IRA commander Martin McGuinness on June 27. ▸

UK queen shakes hands with ex-IRA commander

LONDON—She wore bright green, he wore somber suits. Between them lay a gulf of history that had been beyond bridging, defined by faith and nation, hatred and loss, wartime and peace.

Yet, as what remained of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) stood in guard of honor, Queen Elizabeth II and Martin McGuinness met on Tuesday and—in the moments that seemed to warm as they were intimately accessible.

The setting above, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, evoked three decades of sectarian strife that drove in the British throne of which the queen is the nominal commander in chief, in a fight with IRA guerrillas seeking a united Ireland before the Good Friday peace agreement of 1998.

The Troubles, as the subdued, tangled conflict was known, claimed about 3,500 lives, 60 percent of them in IRA shootings and bombings, and scarred the souls of Northern Ireland's competing citizenries. John Reid, Britain's minister in charge of Northern Ireland in 2001 and 2002, described the Troubles as "so intensely hostile as to be beyond rational comprehension."

"Time is the only cure many say in a long process," he told the BBC. "This may take generations—to get back to absolute reconciliation in Northern Ireland, if you can ever get there."

Appropriately for a historic moment in an era of 24-hour news and instant communication, the handshake had something of a slowly drawn-out moment to it.

A first private handshake took place without the cameras present. What was said at that moment is not in the known. When the cameras were present, McGuinness, now deputy first minister in the power-sharing government, was just one of five hundred men in a reception line waiting to shake the gloved hand of the queen.

McGuinness seemed to incline his head to the monarch who once stood for everything he opposed. He spoke quietly to the queen in Irish. Her words, translating as "goodbye and godspeed," to journalists their brief encounter.

She smiled but did not reply, maintaining the customary reserve that underpins her etiquette. As onlookers were left to ponder whether she thought at that moment of her cousin, Lord Mountbatten, killed by an IRA bomb aboard a yacht off western Ireland in 1979, or subsequent McGuinness thought of the days he fought against her soldiers.

McGuinness has said he left the IRA in 1974 to embrace the electoral policies of Sinn Fein, its political wing, that according to some British intelligence officials, he remained a top commander into the 1990s.

He took figures—monarch and politician—the encounter was fraught with risks: criticism for the queen for shaking the hand of a man once labeled a terrorist, and castigation for McGuinness if he betrayed the sacred cause of a united Ireland.

"Because that involves Martin meeting the British monarch," Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said before Wednesday's meeting, "this will create difficulty for republicans and nationalists who have suffered at the hands of British forces in Ireland over many decades."

As McGuinness drove off after meeting the queen, he observed pointedly to reporters that, while it had been "very nice" to shake her hand, "I'm still a republican." Associated Press/Reuters

Germans say 'Nein! No! Non!' ahead of euro summit

BERLIN/BRUSSELS—EU leaders go into a Brussels meeting on Thursday more openly divided than at any time since the euro-crisis began, with Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel showing no sign of relenting in her refusal to back other countries' debts.

Merkel is being urged to be more tough and reject all efforts to make Germany responsible for other countries' debts or banks, while her EU partners say that may be the only way to save the single currency.

"Nein! No! Non!" shouted a headline splashed across the front page of the normally sober German broadsheet daily Handelsblatt, with a commentary by its editor-in-chief saying Merkel must remain firm at the two-day summit.

Spain and Italy, the latest euro to sour countries to financial markets' fixing line, are demanding EU emergency action to bring down debt spiraling borrowing rates before they are forced out of the bond markets. They want the euro zone's rescue funds or the European Central Bank to intervene first.

A radical German government source, briefing reporters in Berlin before the summit, due to start at 1300 GMT, played down the leap in Spanish and Italian borrowing costs.

"We would warn against exaggerated panic-making," he said. European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso proposed in a report this week creating a euro-zone treasury to issue joint bonds in the medium-term, and establishing a European banking union with central supervision, a joint deposit guarantee and a resolution fund.

Merkel insists that fundamental reforms to give Brussels more direct authorities over euro-zone budgets and their deficits, with a commissioner by its editor-in-chief saying Merkel must remain firm at the two-day summit.

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"Now she must explain to our friends in the senate that it would help no one if Germany led EU integration to the third rail—decline in the euro that other way around: 'yes' to Europe (translation: 'no' to Barroso's ideas," Handelsblatt's Gabor Steingart wrote.

His concerns reflected widespread public views in Germany, which has enjoyed an economy unscathed by the crisis that has ripped the euro, at least not with all those who are members, today."

The meeting is the 20th summit of leaders of the 27 EU states since the crisis erupted in early 2010, giving them a reputation for failing to match their talk with the sort of decisive action needed to resolve it.

Many international investors have already written off Greece and Italian debt, pushing yields to levels that Madrid in June cannot afford for long as it rates to save banks ravaged by a property market collapse and run its spiraling budget deficit.

European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said the summit would "settle an unspecified "short-term measures" to stabilize markets. Merkel has brushed aside demands from Rome and Madrid for rapid measures to support their economies.

French President Francois Hollande is championing joint "eurobonds" to bring down borrowing costs for the weaker economies but Merkel is opposed to the pool of guarantees would include the strongest—ensuring Germany. Reuters

EMPOWERED Is Europe's media on a red-eyed Terminator robot, Merkel has become the subject of a new wave of victorian-era tough names on the euro zone crisis.

Judy Agnew, Spiro's wife, dies at 91

JUDY Agnew, who went to Washington as the wife of Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned as vice president after he pleaded no contest to tax charges, died June 28 in Rancho Mirage, Calif. She was 91.

Her family announced the death.

As Vice President Spiro T. Agnew seized America's attention with his, alliterative rhetoric—calling Nixon's critics "pusillanimous pussyfooters" and "nattering nabobs of negativism"—Judy Agnew radiated the practiced, pious opulence appropriate of a republican housewife. Magazines and newspapers flocked to interview her.

As the nation's second lady, Agnew, a former PTA president and an underarm Girl Scout leader, remembered on rank leaches of spaghetti, buy her clothes off the rack, pack her husband's bag and do needlepoint, just as she had previously done in the napalm where her husband was governor of Maryland.

FORMER US Vice President Spiro Agnew and wife Judy

She was there in the language of the "silent majority" like this of middle-class, county conservatives, mostly older voters whose Nixon control. When a reporter asked what she was up to, she said in an accent she called Baltimorese, "I've been trying to keep the subways clean."

"I don't take stands on anything," she said in an interview with Family magazine in 1970. "I stay out of the political end of it. When people ask what I support in, I proudly tell them—'I majored in marriage.'"

She did have opinions, however, and they occasionally slipped out. She rejected feminists as "silly," saying she was already liberated. She told The New York Times that she had "no use" for hippies, "although I don't know any really." New York Times News Service

Timekeepers to make a minute last 61 seconds on June 30

PARIS...Handspun around the world on Saturday will carry not one of the weightier opinions of their profession: they will hold back time.

The last minute of June 30, 2012 is destined to be 61 seconds long, for timekeepers are to add a "leap second" to compensate for the wobbly movements of our world.

The ever-so-brief halting of the second hand will compensate for a creeping divergence from solar time, meaning the period required for Earth to complete a day.

The planet takes just over 86,400 seconds for a 360-degree revolution.

But it wobbles on its axis and is affected by the gravitational pull of the sun and moon and the ocean tides, all of which brake the rotation by a tiny sliver of a second.

As a result, Earth gets out of sync with the International Atomic Time (TAI), which acts as the guardian of atoms to measure time to an accuracy of several billionths of a second.

To avoid solar time and TAI drifting too far apart, the entirely used inclusion of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is adjusted every so often to give us the odd 86,401 second day.

The adjustments began in 1972. Before then, time was measured exclusively by the position of the sun or stars in relation to Earth, expressed in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or its successor UT1.

This will be the 25th intervention to add a "leap second" to UTC.

"Today, time is conserved, defined and measured with atomic clocks that are infinitely more stable than astronomical time," Noel Dimarcq, director of the Syrte time-space reference system at the Paris Observatory told AFP.

"This allows us to ensure that everyone on Earth is on the exact same time."

TAI is kept by several hundred atomic clocks around the world, measuring fluctuations in the atom of the chemical element caesium that allows them to divide a single second into 9192631770 oscillations.

With such precision, "only one [atomic] second is lost every 300 million years," said Dimarcq. AFP

Dance row: Malaysia steps on Indonesia's toes

JAKARTA...Malaysia is organized from Indonesia's Sumatra island by just 40 miles (64 km) of water, but an issue has opened up between them over who owns a traditional dance, the latest in a series of disputes between the Southeast Asian neighbors.

The feud, one of many over issues as diverse as cultures, pollution and borders in the region of 600 million people, adds to the difficulties leaders face in trying to turn Southeast Asia into a unified economic community by 2015.

Malaysian efforts to promote the Tor-tor folk dance and Gordang Sambilan drum performance—both with origins in Sumatra...as its own reduced Internet sparked protests this month in Jakarta, where a group torched Malaysian flag and threw donut at its embassy. The violence was a sharp contrast to the Tor-tor itself—a gentle, traditional dance featuring a mix of subtle hand and leg movements.

Malaysia's government summoned Indonesia's acting ambassador for talks on Monday to express its concern over the violence.

Government officials on both sides have tried to calm the situation, saying it is a misunderstanding over plans to promote the culture of the Malay people, who live on both Sumatra and across the narrow Malacca Strait to mainland Malaysia.

Malaysia and Indonesia share deep Islamic and cultural ties that go back centuries. The Malay and Indonesian languages are mutually intelligible and historians say they originate from Indonesia's Riau Islands, just south of Singapore. The subtle differences do exist and could be part of the reason for the latest row. The Malay word for heritage, "warisan," carries a stronger connotation of ownership in Indonesia.

The case has touched a raw nerve in Indonesia, which has previously argued with Malaysia over who claims the rights to folk music, batik textiles and spicy food Bending curry. Reuters

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

MVP sells 25% Rockwell stake for ₱3.06B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan sold its 25-percent stake in newly listed Rockwell Land Corp. to the Lopez group for about P3.06 billion.

The deal will enable the Lopezes to consolidate their controlling interest in Rockwell at a more cost relative to market prices. The Lopez group's interest in Rockwell now stands at about 76 percent from the previous 51 percent.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and PLDT Communications and Energy Ventures said that their joint venture company Beacon Electric Asset Holdings (Beacon) had agreed to sell a total of 1.32 billion common shares in Rockwell to the Lopezes for ₱2.81 apiece.

The deal was in line with the Pangilinan group's thrust to exit non-core property investments.

The shares were sold to Lopez-led First Philippine Holdings Corp. and FPH Premier Fund at a 35-percent discount based on Wednesday's closing price of ₱5.20 a share. The block previously was scheduled for transfer through a special sale on the PSE.

Where Manila Electric Co. declared as property dividend its 51-percent stake in Rockwell, shareholders of Meralco—including the Pangilinan-led Beacon—received the shares in the property company. But because property development is no longer among the Pangilinan group's core interests in the Philippines, its divestment had been widely expected.

The Metro Pacific group used to engage in the local property business after winning the bid for the privatization of the sprawling Fort Bonifacio military camp in Taguig in the 1990s. In the 2000s when Mario Ortiz-Luis's principal stockholder, the Italian family, decided to pull its investments out of the Philippines, Pangilinan fought to keep control of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. but gave up Port Bonifacio. Metro Pacific's interest in Fort Bonifacio, now known as Bonifacio Global City, was sold to the Ayala-Campos group.

Rockwell listed on the local stock exchange by way of introduction, or without any public offering, in May.

The property company started operations in 1995 when it completed the redevelopment of an old thermal power plant into an upscale mixed use community now known as Rockwell Center in Makati City.

The property now has seven high-rise residential towers, a shopping mall, a leisure club, a graduate school and two office buildings (Tordesillas and Philamlife).

Lopezes' hike interest in former power plant property to 76%

Meralco resets prepaid power plan

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor, has pushed back the start of its technical pilot project for the prepaid retail electricity scheme to November this year, from the previous target of July, as it has yet to award the project to a foreign firm.

The foreign firm, which will serve as an "integrator," is supposed to deliver the solutions, including the integration of prepaid platform, Meralco systems and telecommunication leading infrastructure, said officials in Pasilio, senior vice president and head of customer retail services at Meralco.

According to Pasilio, the technical pilot project in Angono, Rizal schedules this November will cover a smaller number of about 50 households, to ensure that all systems are technically OK prior to the commercial pilot operations for the prepaid electricity scheme early next year.

The commercial pilot project meanwhile will cover a bigger area, roughly around 400 households in Angono, each of which has an average consumption of about 200 kilowatt-hours per month, Pasilio said.

The pilot activities will also test the viability of the existing prepaid platform, the prepaid meters and the various vending solutions that may be deployed. More importantly, the pilot test will determine if the prepaid retail electricity scheme will not only be a good business one for Meralco, but if it can also provide lasting benefits for its customers.

MERALCO B3

Palace: Sovereignty not an issue

By Christine O. Avendaño

LACIERDA

MALACAÑANG yesterday said that sovereignty was not an issue when it came to the gas exploration at Recto Bank.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda made this remark after he learned from Energy Secretary Jose Almendras that the Chinese partner of Philex Petroleum Corp. might withdraw from the the gas exploration deal because of a sovereignty issue between China and the Philippines.

Businessman Manny Pangilinan heads Philex Petroleum Corp.

Lacierda stressed that Pangilinan's company was at Recto Bank because it was awarded a service contract to do so.

"So [sovereignty] is never an issue," Lacierda told reporters.

He also cited President Aquino's statement in Baguio City last week that there was "automatic sovereignty" for the service contract awarded to Pangilinan's company.

"Because [Recto Bank] is part of our territory and that is a contract awarded by the Philippine government to Pangilinan," Lacierda said.

Asked whether the government's recent ensure the security of Philex Petroleum operations at Recto Bank, Lacierda said he would have to discuss this with Almendras first.

The Palace spokesperson underscored the importance of the government's gas explorations at Recto Bank, saying that resources there were "substantial" and "huge as large as the Malampaya" gas field, based on expert findings.

Pangilinan, chair of Philex Petroleum Corp., earlier said he would abandon a proposed partnership with state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) if sovereignty or commercial issues involving the disputed Recto Bank are not resolved to

PALACE B3

Korea bank offers to cut rates to clinch PPP deals

By Michelle V. Rarue

THE KOREAN government, through state-owned Korean Eximbank, is loudly interested in financing public infrastructure projects being pushed by the Philippine government under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program.

To do this, Korean Eximbank's chief representative to the Philippines, said that should the Philippine government decide to seek official development assistance (ODA) to fund the PPP projects, the Korean institution would be willing to offer it preferential interest rate.

Most ODAs to the Philippines carry an interest rate of 1.15 percent per annum payable in 40 years. Park said Korean Eximbank would be willing to cut the interest rate by half, or only 0.075 percent per annum, to fund the PPP projects.

"We are very interested in PPP projects," Park said. "Demand for financing is huge, but because of the European debt crisis, many commercial banks are hesitant or reluctant to extend loans for big projects. Korean Eximbank wants to fill in this gap in the Philippines."

Under the PPP program, the Philippine government has invited private firms to invest in vital public infrastructure projects by assuming the costs in full or in part.

Park said Korean Eximbank proposed the establishment of a "PPP Consultative Group" to key economic officials of the Philippine government. The Korean embassy said the group could be headed by representatives from the PPP Center of the Philippine government, the National Economic and Development Authority and the Korean Eximbank.

The group will be responsible for studying and deciding on PPP projects that the Korean government may help finance, Park explained.

Dong-Jun Lee, another representative of Korean Eximbank, said the agency could help the government in meeting its share in project costs through ODAs.

Korean Eximbank may also help private sector investors in PPP projects by extending them non-ODA type of credit, he added.

"We are, therefore, offering a one-stop solution for the Philippine government's PPP projects," Lee said.

Korean Eximbank is one of the Philippines' ODA sources.

From 2011 to 2013, the agency has allocated $900 million for the Philippines, and may extend much more should the government decide to seek further assistance, Lee said.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
June 28, 2012
42.340

STOCK MARKET
June 28, 2012
1.77

Shares dip slightly

(See stock market report on Page B3)

DMCIH prices yesterday slipped marginally after a four-day run-up, as investors reassessed gains while the main index approached record levels anew.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index eased by 7.37 points, or 0.09 percent, to close at 5,258.15. Analysts said that investors were still upbeat on local equities, but needed to take a respite as the index climbed closer to record levels of over 5,300.

The index lost 19 points in morning trade, but pared down losses as investors remained upbeat on local prospects and were willing to load up stocks at higher valuation.

Trading was mixed across counters, with the holding firms, services

SHARES B3

VERSACE HOME. WHERE EVERY HALLWAY IS YOUR PERSONAL CATWALK.
THE MILANO
CENTURY
VERSACE

Ayala Land developing 'nucleus' of Global City

Premium mixed-use urban hub estimated to cost P30B

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. unveiled on Thursday a P30-billion premium mixed-use urban hub envisioned to be the nucleus of the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig, which was touted as the twin central business district of Makati.

The development, called One Bonifacio High Street, is a three-tower block that will seamlessly integrate a high-end grade-A building that will be home to the Philippine Stock Exchange, a premium lifestyle center, the Fairmont (Shangri-la Hotel and an upscale all-suite residential tower, AyalaLand president Ayalino Aquino said in a briefing.

The premiere block is seen grabbing the lion's share of the investments from ALI and several BGC locators. These will include Ayala Land Premier's P9.9-billion, 63-story residential development called "The Stories"—ALI's most expensive but the best-selling residential project in nearly two decades.

Initially introduced during a presold selling event four days ago, only three units out of 295 units left for sale, Ayala Land Premier group head Jose Jesus Jugo said. This was the fastest take-up seen by the group in recent history, he said.

Jugo said residential units in the towers would be sold for an average of P150,000 per square meter, much higher than any other residential project launched by Ayala in BGC and Makati. The units are selling for P20 million to P9.09 million. They will be turned over to buyers in 2016.

Jugo said the project formed generous units of living spaces that range from 150 to 400 square meters.

Aquino said the P30-billion project was a partnership among ALI, the Campos family's Evergreen Holdings and state-owned Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

In the early 2000s, ALI teamed up with the Campos family to take over Metro Pacific group's stake in a joint venture with the Bases Conversion Development Authority which privatized the former Fort Bonifacio military camp in the 1990s.

The projected investment also scores the infusion made by Shang Properties, which is building a 60-story "ultra-deluxe" Shangri-La Hotel. The hotel was estimated to cost P5.8 billion.

The Grade-AAA office building will also feature a four-level lifestyle hub that will also house a four-level hub of luxury shops that will complement the presence and location of One Bonifacio High Street, ALI said in a disclosure to the PSE.

The PSE tower, which will become the headquarters of a unified local stock exchange, was estimated to cost between P2 billion and P5 billion, while the Manila retail component would cost between P10 billion and P14 billion.

Anchor Land launches ₱11-B project

UPSCALE property developer Anchor Land Holdings Inc. plans to roll out this year its biggest residential project to date—an P11.4-billion luxury resort residential development at the Ayala's business park in Paranaque City.

The project is seen catering to the "multinational" community.

In a briefing after the company stockholders' meeting on Thursday, Anchor Land vice chairman Li said the project, Monarch Parkwins, would offer to the public the first tower this year consisting of about 700 residential units.

The four-tower development is expected to be completed in five to six years, riding on a 1.16-hectare property earlier acquired by the company. The property is adjacent to Anchor Land's Solaire Parkwins. The first building is expected to be completed in the next four years.

Unlike in previous projects that catered mainly to a niche Filipino-Chinese community, Li said the new development would cater to the "multinational" community citing an increase in demand from foreigners who wanted to invest in quality residences in the Philippines.

The project is the third phase of Anchor Land's mainly mixed-use development along Manila Bay. It will feature more open spaces, bigger amenities and greater area.

Monarch Parkwins will offer residential units with living spaces of between 25 and 130 square meters that will sell for between P90,000 and P120,000 per square meter.

Li said Anchor Land had diversified its market base and trimmed the share of business from its fellow Filipino-Chinese community to 40 percent from the previous 60 percent.

In the meantime, Li said Anchor Land was also on track to recording its net profit target of P1 billion for 2012. It booked a net income of P613.7 million in 2011, up by 49 percent from a year ago. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Sidestepping the 60-40 rule

ONE year ago yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled in a case involving PLDT that, for purposes of determining compliance with the 60 percent-40 percent nationality requirement for the operation of public utilities, "capital" refers only to shares of stocks entitled to vote in the election of directors.

Citing its adverse effects on the economy, PLDT and many publicly-listed companies have asked the SC to **extend the effectivity** of its ruling to reconsider its decision.

This week, the tribunal heard **oral arguments on that request.**

Until the tribunal ruled differently, capital has been interpreted to mean "the sum total of the net outstanding capital stock, irrespective of their nomenclature or classification as common, preferred, voting or non-voting."

Thus, as long as 60 percent of the capital stock of a company engaged in a particular nationalized business is owned by Filipinos, regardless of who among the stockholders have **the right to elect its directors**, the company can lawfully engage in that business.

Considering the gravity of the issue, not to mention the tribunal's workload, it will take some time before the last word on this can be heard.

Voting rights

But wanting to hold their breath while waiting for that day to happen, some of the companies that would be adversely affected by a textual rendition of the nationality rule have doubled to prepare for a worst case scenario.

PLDT, Globe Telecom and Ayala Land, among others, have taken steps to amend their Articles of Incorporation to meet the requirements of the decision.

Basically, the amendment warrants "of giving preferred shareholders (with Filipino citizens in mind) the right to vote in the election of directors which, by tradition, is reserved to holders of common stocks.

The old practice of restricting voting rights to common stockholders to the exclusion of preferred shareholders will be done away with. The two sets of stocks will enjoy equal voting privileges, although their dividend rates may vary depending on how by how.

Under the company's annual stockholders meeting on Thursday, **first president Ferdinand Santos** announced that the company had completed 30 **subdivision projects** while three others were nearing completion.

Three projects cover about 190 **hectares of land in Baguio City**, Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna and Naga City.

Gotianun explained that completion of its golf courses in Forest Hills, Antipolo City and the rehabilitation of its golf course in Fortbonifacio and Shorewaver in Boracay is launched

allowed companies to meet the 60-40 thresholds.

Adjustments

The move of some companies to change their voting rules ahead of the final decision on the issue has raised some eyebrows. Why the rush? Why not wait for the tribunal's ruling? Who knows, the justices may reconsider their stand.

And even if the tribunal decides to stand pat, the companies would, in the spirit of fairness, be given sufficient time to make the proper adjustments in their corporate structure.

After all, in the absence of said, we can't fault for the outstanding parties, most rulings are prospectively applied.

From the legal standpoint, awaiting the tribunal's final ruling is a wise course of action. The justice may, after hearing the legal and economic considerations of its decision, find no compelling reason to alter the two decades old interpretation of capital.

Although that possibility exists, there are realities on the ground that make preparations for a worst case scenario a sound precaution more.

How partly nationalized businesses, such as, operations of public utilities and exploitation of natural resources, are capital intensive, i.e., they require substantial funds to be able to operate efficiently and profitably.

Unless their stockholders have deep pockets, these companies have to either invite foreign investors, borrow from banks, or issue corporate bonds to meet their financing requirements.

Contracts

In these circumstances, it is a standard practice that the counterparties enter contract details from the obligatory financial terms representations, covenants and warranties. Any of these could result in defaults with to be able to avail itself of the needs facilities.

Thus, for example, the company has no room that it is lawfully organized in accordance with Philippine regulations, that it conducts its business that standing during the life of the agreement, and that it ensures that it will take the proper measures to live up to that commitment.

Before any funds are released, the creditor or investor will demand that the company affirm in writing the accuracy of those statements. The affirmations of are signed by the company president, chief or CEO, and confirmed by an opinion of counsel issued by a lawyer designated by the parties for that purpose.

If, say at the time the funds are due for release the tribunal decides to retain the existing nationality rule and the company has not made any changes in its stockholding structure, fine. The company will have no problem affirming the validity of those statements.

But if the tribunal instead upholds its textual interpretation on ownership. The company could find itself in serious trouble. Since its corporate structure no longer complies with Philippine regulations, it cannot pin the required affirmation.

That failure may result in the expiration of the release of the funds or, worse, you the company in default. Inevitably, it will be obliged to immediately pay whatever amounts that have been released earlier plus interest and penalties.

So why take the risk? By making the needed amendments ahead of the tribunal's final ruling, the companies are assured that, regardless of how the wind blows later, they can meet their contractual commitments and preserve the premium economy.

It has been said that a good enterprise is not measured on how well the sun sides problems, but on how he can prevent them from happening.

For feedback, please write to <spalafox@inquirer.net, pfc>.

OnE Accounting Systems
₱10,000
50 www.OnEPhil.com.ph
OnE

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Jun. 27, 2012	Jun. 26, 2012
Bond Fund - Peso	0.0000	2.0000
Managed Fund - Peso	0.0000	2.0000
Growth Fund - Peso	0.0000	2.0000
Equity Fund - Peso	0.0000	2.0000
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.0000	2.0000
Secured Return Fund I	0.0000	2.0000
Secured Return Fund II	0.0000	2.0000
Protector Fund - Peso	0.0000	2.0000
Money Market Fund - Peso	0.0000	2.0000
Asian Local Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.0000	2.0000

Geri upbeat on tourism industry

Company on track to meeting P264-M profit goal for '12

By Doris L. Dumlao

PROPERTY tycoon Andrew Tan's integrated resorts arm, Global Estate Resorts Inc. (Gerl), is confident of meeting its net income goal of P264 million for this year given the bright prospects of the Philippine tourism sector.

During the company's annual stockholders meeting on Thursday, **Gerl president Ferdinand Santos** announced that the company had completed 30 **subdivision projects** while three others were nearing completion.

Three projects cover about 190 **hectares of land in Baguio City**, Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna and Naga City.

Gerl also explained that completion of its golf courses in Forest Hills, Antipolo City and the rehabilitation of its golf course in Fortbonifacio and Shorewaver in Boracay is launched

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF BORAC
Bids and Awards Committee
City Hall, Borac City 5600, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID NO. 16-13 FOR

Materials for the Beautification, Improvement and Development of People's Park Restaurant, Brgy. Bayleap, Borac City

1. The **Borac City Government** through the appropriation ordinance intends to apply the sum of **P2,150,000.00** being the approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Materials for the Beautification, Improvement and Development of People's Park Restaurant, Brgy. Bayleap, Borac City**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the outset.
2. The **Borac City Government** now invites bids for **Materials for the Beautification, Improvement and Development of People's Park Restaurant, Brgy. Bayleap, Borac City**. Delivery of the items is required within **30 days** after receipt of the Notice to Proceed from the Contractor within 1 year from the date of submission and receipt of bids. A contract similar to the Project, the description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non - discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) citizen's or Filipino-owned capital and legally authorized to engage in the type of contract being awarded, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Borac City Government** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during **8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**.

   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on or **June 30-July 6, 2013** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **P1,000.00**.

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The **Borac City Government** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **July 3, 2013, 2:00 PM at BAC Office, 3rd Floor, Borac City Hall**, which shall be open to all interested parties.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 6, 2013, 9:00 am**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause**.

   Bid opening shall be on **July 6, 2013, 9:00 am at BAC Office, 3rd Floor, Borac City Hall**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The **Borac City Government** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARVIN A. ABRIGOS
BAC Chairman
Address: Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Borac City Hall
(036) 511-1100 local 110

(PN) — June 28, 2013

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6232-0013
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract	Procurement of Transportation Equipment
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P20,000,000.00
Source of Fund	FS for CY 2011 Budget for the purchase of Multi-purpose vehicles/ Ambulance for various Brgys. in the Province of Capiz

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Opening of Eligibility Documents	July 3, 2013
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 3, 2013
3. Pre-Bid Conference	July 16, 2013, 10:00 am
4. Opening of Bids	July 31, 2013, 10:00 am

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at BAC office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of P5,000.00, Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00)
3. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements & technical proposal, financial proposal in two separate envelopes on the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in form of cash and must be dropped at the BAC drop box on or before the closing date on July 31, 2013, 10:00 am.
5. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JESSA ROSE D. APA-AP II
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PN) — June 28, 2013

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
#123, Agdao Pala, Zamboanga City

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) invites all duly licensed Filipino citizens and Sole Proprietorships, qualified and technically capable to participate and apply for eligibility and to submit their following sealed bids materials, equipments / projects, items or kit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	01	UNITS	ELECTRONIC METER BRAND (Model 1240)
2	01	UNITS	OPEN WIRE BRAND
3	1	UNIT	TRUCK MOUNTED
4	01	UNITS	METER TESTING BOARD

You may secure the Prequalification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO, at the above mentioned address and/or during office hours and submit all the requirements on or upon their completion on the date of bid opening. Only those who are found to be eligible shall be given the bid documents.

All applicants will be duly notified on the results of the prequalification. Applicants, contractors and manufacturer qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding for the particular item/s they are qualified.

Qualified bidders shall submit their sealed bids in duplicate copies to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO, at the above-mentioned address, not later than 10:00 AM of the date specified above. Late bids shall not be accepted. The bid price shall be stated in words and in figures in Philippine Currency and must be valid for a period of thirty (30) calendar days from the date of bid opening. A bid security in the form of cash, cashier's / manager's check, surety bond or bank guarantee (LC) is mandatorily required.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or technicality thereto, and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder. In case of failure of the successful bidder to enter into contract and/or post performance security, the Committee reserves the right to award to the next lowest bidder. ZAMCELCO assumes no obligation to compensate any bidder or party for any cost it assumes incurred in the preparation of the bid or participation in the bidding process.

(Sgd.) ROMEO N. ALO
Bids Committee

(PN) June 28, 2013

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Fermenting Principal Facility
(NATIONAL EGGPLANT ADMINISTRATION)
Regional Office No. 10

INVITATION TO BID

The Bids Bulletin for the Bidding Documents for the Procurement of Goods for the Construction of Fermenting Principal Facility (NATIONAL EGGPLANT ADMINISTRATION) is hereby issued to all prospective bidders.

The Bid Bulletin for the Bidding Documents for Construction and Installation of Fermenting Principal Facility (NATIONAL EGGPLANT ADMINISTRATION) is hereby issued to all prospective bidders. Bidders are hereby informed that the Bidding Documents, including the Bid Bulletin, is an integral component before the submission of bids. Bidders' signature in the Bid Bulletin is a mandatory requirement before the submission of bids.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) citizen's or Filipino-owned capital and legally authorized to engage in the type of contract being awarded, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on or **June 28-July 4, 2013** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **P1,000.00**.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **July 5, 2013, 10:00 AM** at the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Regional Office No. 10, Upper Balulang, Cagayan de Oro City.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 8, 2013, 10:00 AM**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause**.

Bid opening shall be on **July 8, 2013, 10:00 AM** at the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Regional Office No. 10, Upper Balulang, Cagayan de Oro City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

(Sgd.) JOHN D. LUNA II
BAC Chairman

(PN) — June 28, 2013

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development
SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Santiago City (Isabela), Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Southern Isabela General Hospital (SIGH), through its Bids and Awards Committee invites Registered PHILGEPS Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following procurement activities:

Name of Project	License / Registration Particular	Approved Budget	Bidding Documents
Land Development Improvement	Medium B	P10,700,000.00	P 40,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project's ABC. The eligibility check / screening will use the preliminary requirements/ bids shall use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Eligibility forms (checklist) shall be made available to Contractors classified above and/or submitted at letter of intent with attached PCAB License at the SIGH-BAC Chairman, Head of Secretariat Office and upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above.

Dates for the issuance of Bid/Tender Documents to eligible contractors, submission of bids, and opening of bids for the above-mentioned projects are as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	July 3, 2013	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 16, 2013	3:00 pm
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	July 31, 2013	2:00 pm

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Submission of Bids, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR as amended.

The SIGH-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required informality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal are evaluated by the BAC to the most advantageous to the government. SIGH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred by them in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) HERMAN A. MABAYAD, MD
Chairperson, BAC
Southern Isabela General Hospital

(PN) — June 28, 2013

NUEVA ECIJA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Bo. Mabini, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija
Tel. Nos. (044) 486-0201 / (044) 486-0928
Email Address: neeci1@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY and TO BID

The Nueva Ecija I Electric Cooperative, Inc. with office address at Brgy. Mabini, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija invites all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the Supply of Non-Performing Assets as follows:

LOT I — Distribution Transformers
a. 5MVA, 15kV/6.25kV, 3P, BF/OA, DW/YG, YG/GR
b. Pole-n-Phase Recloser
c. Automatic Voltage Regulators

LOT II —
a. Assorted Kilowatt-hour Meters
b. Assorted Instrument Wires
c. Motor Cycle
d. Assorted Tires
e. Assorted Metal Coils
f. Assorted Metal Scrap

Hereunder are the details of the competitive selection process:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 03-26, 2013	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	July 11, 2013	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Final Bidding	July 26, 2013	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

All interested bidders may secure Bid Documents from BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) and Ten Hundred Two Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00). Posting of Bid Bond is either in the form of cashier / manager's check certified check or bank guarantee in the amount (5%) of the total bid price.

NOTICE: I hereby reserve the right to reject any and all applications or pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, waive any defect thereof.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PN) — June 28, 2013

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
PNOC
6th Flr. Philippine Geothermal Tower, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 856-1000 / (632) 856-1001

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Please be notified that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOCEC) is scheduled on July 02, 2013, Monday, 8:00 A.M. at the PNOC EC Pilipinas Hall, 3rd Floor, Building 1, Energy Center, Rizal Drive, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Report on Attendance and Quorum
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the November 4, 2011 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Ratification of Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Management since the last Stockholders' Meeting
7. Amendment of Section 2, Article II of the By-Laws (extending the annual meeting of stockholders from the second Tuesday of June to the first day of July of each year)
8. Election of Directors
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Stockholders of record as of June 25, 2013 are entitled to receive notice and to vote in person or by proxy at the Meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of PNOCEC shall be closed from June 25, 2013 to July 02, 2013.

Proxy forms are required to stockholders who will not be able to attend the Meeting should be sent to the undersigned Corporate Secretary of PNOC EC at least forty-eight (48) hours before July 02, 2013. Meeting to be held at PNOC EC Building 1, Energy Center, Rizal Drive, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

June 21, 2013, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

(Sgd.) JOSE C. ITO, Atty.
Corporate Secretary

(PN) — June 28, 2013

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
Department of Justice
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Justice (DOJ), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting interested parties to bid the following projects:

1. Purchase of Internal Computers for Lubis
   - Approved Budget for the Contract – P 1,000,000.00
2. Purchase of 10 units Telephone with accessories
   - Approved Budget for the Contract – P 500,000.00
3. Purchase of 100 units Desktop Computers
   - Approved Budget for the Contract – P 3,000,000.00
4. Purchase of 20 units Document Scanner
   - Approved Budget for the Contract – P 1,000,000.00
5. Purchase and Installation of CCTV Cameras at DOJ Premises
   - Approved Budget for the Contract – P 1,000,000.00

The prospective bidders must have an experience of having completed, within a period of ten (10) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, at least one (1) contract that is similar to the contract/s to be bid, and whose value, adjusted to current prices using the NSO consumer price indices, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/s to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the "compliant/non-compliant" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participants relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Warranty, Conditions, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 dated 10 July 2003.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Posting of Invitation to Bid	21 June 2012 – 05 July 2012
Pre-Bid Conference	26 June 2012
Opening of Bids	10 July 2012
Bid Evaluation	10 July 2012
Post Qualification	10 July 2012
Notice of Award	11 July 2012

Bid documents and additional information may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, Office of Director, Administrative Service, 5th Floor, DOJ Agencies Building II, DOJ Compound, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.

All bids to be submitted shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, Room 510, 5th Floor DOJ Main Building, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. All prospective bidders shall be charged a non-refundable fee in the amount of **P5,000.00 for item nos. 1, 2, 3 & 5, and P1,000.00 for item no. 4**.

The Department of Justice reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein and accepts the offer most advantageous to the government and absolves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidder for any expenses incurred in the preparation of his bid.

17 June 2012

(Sgd.) RICARDO V. PARAS III
Chief, Bids Division
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PID – June 22 & 29, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 807 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
HSBC ASIA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED Unit 1305 Oxford Harbour Tower, 5th cor. Subha cor. Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Wenfei Qiu Chinese	Private-Language Marketing Specialist
SPORTS BOOKS ONLINE INC 2nd Flr Benjamin Concrete Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Eva Barat Indonesian	Senior Indonesian Language Customer Service Support Staff
PGE SOUTH EAST ASIA INC. 4/F Universal Re Bldg., 138 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City	Thierry Philippe Bernard Gilbert Iranian	General Director
ROBERT BOSCH COMMUNICATION CENTER INC. 12/F Net Legend Towers, 100 Bel. Gil St. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Seiji Ito Chinese	Associate
ROBERT BOSCH COMMUNICATION CENTER INC. 12/F Net Legend Towers, 100 Bel. Gil St. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Tetsuya Tomoghara Japanese	Associate
EXCELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 11/F Wilcon Towers, 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. M.A. Roxas St., Makati City	Chai Fun Kam Malaysian	Customer Service Officer (E-Commerce)
EXCELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 11/F Wilcon Towers, 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. M.A. Roxas St., Makati City	John Liu Cambodian	Customer Service Officer (E-Commerce)
EXCELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 11/F Wilcon Towers, 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. M.A. Roxas St., Makati City	Soon Ming Chin Malaysian	Customer Service Officer (E-Commerce)
ARUN SELECT, INC. 6/F The Information Bldg., 105 Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Jeffrey Heinz Taylor American	Senior IT Engineer
JAHWEAN INC. Unit B-1, 2/F Padilla Bldg., E. Delgado S. Road, Antipolo Center, Pasig City	Lee Young Hark Korean	General Manager
SEALERS INC. Unit B-1, 2/F Padilla Bldg., E. Delgado S. Road, Antipolo Center, Pasig City	Dong Soo Kim Korean	General Manager
FLOR DANIEL INC. / PHILIPPINES 3/F Asian Star Bldg., 2403-2404 JEDA Cmte Marvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Nazaret Chung-Ang Wee Singaporean	Senior Architect
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NAGA CORPORATION ELECTRONICS PTE LTD 23/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo De Roxas, Makati City	Hiroyuki Nishimoto Japanese	Representative Office Manager
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If you have any information/objection to this above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

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OBITUARIES

"Come and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up."
– Hosea 6:1

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept my faith."
– 2 Timothy 4:7

† Felicula Silapan Querido

of Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Passed away in the peace of the Lord on June 26, 2012 at the age of 78.

Her children Josefito, Celia, Evelyn, Milagros Elnas, Raul Edward, Arthur, Bobby, Elmer, Richard, sons and daughters-in-law and her grandchildren request your prayers for her eternal happiness in Heaven.

Her body lies in state at the Residences, (Chapel Hospital), G. Araneta corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 01, 2012 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City.

HYUNDAI NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

A Gift of Brilliance

Hyundai and Miss World Philippines 2012 move together to empower young minds through active learning

A Day of Unique Learning Experiences

Education is a key component of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.'s (HARI) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). HARI, through HARI Foundation, Inc., has organized free Mind Museum tours for over 3,000 students of The Sisters of Mary Schools in different parts of Luzon. Of these, 208 from the Silang, Cavite school experienced a fun-filled day of scientific exploration with the candidates of Miss World Philippines 2012.

To ensure the students' safe trip to The Mind Museum, HARI collaborated with government officials to provide reliable transportation for them.

Mostly first-timers at the museum, both candidates and students discovered the science behind ordinary things through the Museum's different interactive galleries—Life, Universe, Earth, Technology, and the Atom Gallery, which was sponsored by HARI.

A World Where Beauty and Brilliance Inspire

Last June 24, 2012 at the Manila Hotel Tent City, Queenierich Rehman, Miss World Philippines 2012, was hailed Hyundai Brand Ambassador by HARI President and CEO Ma. Fe Perez-Aguda. Ms. Rehman also received as a prize Hyundai's newly-launched model, the Hyundai EON.

Celebrating the world-class beauty and brilliance of the Filipina, HARI inked a memorandum of agreement with Miss World Philippines as the beauty pageant's Official Mobility Partner. Hyundai Grand Starex units were deployed to transport the 25 candidates to their various engagements.

HARI signed a memorandum of agreement with Miss World Philippines as the pageant's Official Mobility Partner. Ms. Perez-Aguda, HARI President and CEO (4th) and Miss World Philippines Director Cory Quirino

"Miss World Philippines' vision of promoting Beauty in Unity sets the standards for real beauty. The Miss World Philippines 2012 candidates are women with beautiful hearts because they transcend and give their attributes a purpose, which is that of reaching out to the country's underprivileged women and children."

– Ma. Fe Perez-Aguda, President and CEO, HARI

"Spending one whole day at The Mind Museum with Hyundai, our Official Mobility Partner, and the students of the Sisters of Mary School was a day of brilliant and inspired sharing and learning."

– Cory Quirino, Director, Miss World Philippines

"HARI has a continuing commitment to support and empower Filipinos through its Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, which set them apart from other corporations. To further their advocacy on education, they helped in the funding of the Atom Gallery of The Mind Museum and took over 3,000 students to tour the museum for free."

– Manny Illan, Managing Director, The Mind Museum at Taguig

Queenierich Rehman takes her first walk as Miss World Philippines 2012 and Hyundai's newest Brand Ambassador

The Miss World Philippines 2012 candidates signed on Hyundai's vision on people's lives aboard Hyundai's iconic Grand Starex

The 2008 World Cup Trophy with the Miss World Philippines and The Mind Museum's VIP Hotel Tour set to promote celebrities and students as a source of scientific discovery at The Mind Museum

HARI
HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.
FOUNDATION

Through HARI Foundation, Inc., HARI commits to localizing Hyundai Motor Company's (HMC) global bid to promote a lifestyle of authentic caring and sharing. This commitment to good corporate citizenship is expressed through a triple bottomline approach—economic growth, community development, and environment protection. HARI's partnership with Miss World Philippines 2012 is aligned with the leading automotive company's strides towards empowering the Filipino youth through education.

BUSINESS

Parts makers push $500-M e-tricycle program

PH positioned as regional hub for vehicle assembly

By Jerry R. Sosmeña

LOCAL auto parts makers are pushing for the implementation of the government's proposed $500-million electric tricycle program as this will not only boost their ailing industry but also help make the country a regional hub for electric parts supply and electric assembly.

In a statement, the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) and the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) noted that the expected influx of local and foreign investments in the electric vehicle industry will provide much needed incremental income and employment to another ecosystem.

MVPMAP is composed of some 125 local auto parts makers while the newly organized EVAP is composed of some 27 electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers, assemblers, importers, dealers, members of the academe and ordinary users.

"Some 50,000 employees are dependent on the local parts making industry. Considering that more than 25 percent of our labor force is not fully utilized with 8.8 percent of them unemployed and another 35.2 percent of them underemployed, this effort to program will help us and our employees get back on our feet," said MVPMAP President Percil Riquimaroux.

Under the e-trike program, the government plans to replace 100,000 fossil-fed tricycle units with energy efficient e-trikes to help reduce the transport sector's gasoline consumption by 161,000 barrels yearly, thus avoiding 260,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

According to Riquimaroux, the e-Trike program has already caught the interest of foreign investors, judging from their interest in the recent 2012 Electric Vehicle Summit.

"Major EV players from Japan, Korea and Taiwan were present to scout for local business partners for the e-Trike Program. Now, even if just two of them put up EV manufacturing operations in the country, they have to source at least 30 million units per Motor Vehicle Development Program," he explained.

"That would be an investment of about P600 million that would benefit our local parts makers and labor force. This is enough to jump start our local EV industry and if we just play our cards right, we just might be the hub of EV parts supply and vehicle assembly in the region," Riquimaroux added.

EVAP president Emanuel Jears, meanwhile, noted that with the 100,000 units rolled as about $5,000 each, the business to be generated by the eTrike Program will easily go up to P11.5 billion.

"The EV industry is targeting local value-added parts and labor of 70 percent so we still need to import parts and components not yet locally manufactured such as motors, controllers, lithium ion batteries, steering systems, suspension systems and the like. But all of these technologies will soon be transferred to us in the long run and that is what makes us even more optimistic about the program," Jears said.

Food, live animals drive PH trade growth, NSO says

By Riza T. Olchondra

FOOD and live animal trade drove the growth in domestic trade transactions in the first quarter of 2012, which rose year-on-year by 6.7 percent, said the National Statistics Office (NSO).

NSO said in a report that 9.75 million tons of commodities flowed through the Philippines' transport systems in the first quarter of 2012 from 9.31 million tons during the same period in 2011.

The commodities were traded mostly through water transport, which contributed 60.6 percent of trade movements—the same percentage recorded in the first quarter of 2011, NSO said.

In terms of value, commodity flow also increased by 2.7 percent to P1,35.45 billion from P127.91 billion a year ago.

Among the commodities transported, food and live animals accounted for the largest value, amounting to P37.36 billion (28.4 percent). Machinery and transport equipment followed next with P27.76 billion (21.1 percent) while manufactured goods classified chiefly by material followed with P18.32 billion (13.9 percent).

Animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes shared the third value with P9.29 billion (7.1 percent).

The story was the same in the first quarter of 2011, according to NSO.

Food and live animals also led that period with a share of 29.9 percent (P38.15 billion) of the total value.

"Data on the inflow and outflow of commodities is the difference regions of the country are used to construct interregional and interindustry relation tables. These serve as bases in the formulation and implementation of various regional development programs like countryside development and port planning," NSO said in its report.

In the first quarter of 2012, most of the traded commodities originated from National Capital Region with value reaching P56.42 billion (29.2 percent of total), NSO said.

Central Visayas came in second with P20.36 billion (10.5 percent), followed by Western Visayas with P13.88 billion (12.1 percent), Northern Mindanao with P14.67 billion (11.2 percent), and Central Luzon with P13.25 billion (10.1 percent).

Cagayan Valley, on the other hand, contributed the least to domestic trade with only P161,000 (0.001144 percent).

Starmobile enters PH's crowded mobile sector

By Paolo S. Montealto

A NEW Philippine company is hoping to make waves in the country's huge mobile phone market with the introduction of new "feature-packed" devices that, unlike other brands, initially overpower one's wallet.

In a briefing on Thursday, Starmobile formally launched its new line of phones in the Philippine market, although the phones have been selling since late last year.

Acknowledged in the Philippines but manufactured in China, Starmobile phones offer consumers "everything they need" in a budget-friendly package, company officials said.

"Starmobile is more than just a maker of mobile phones. It is our mission to be the Filipino's partner in jumpstarting dreams and aspirations," said Starmobile president Michael Chen.

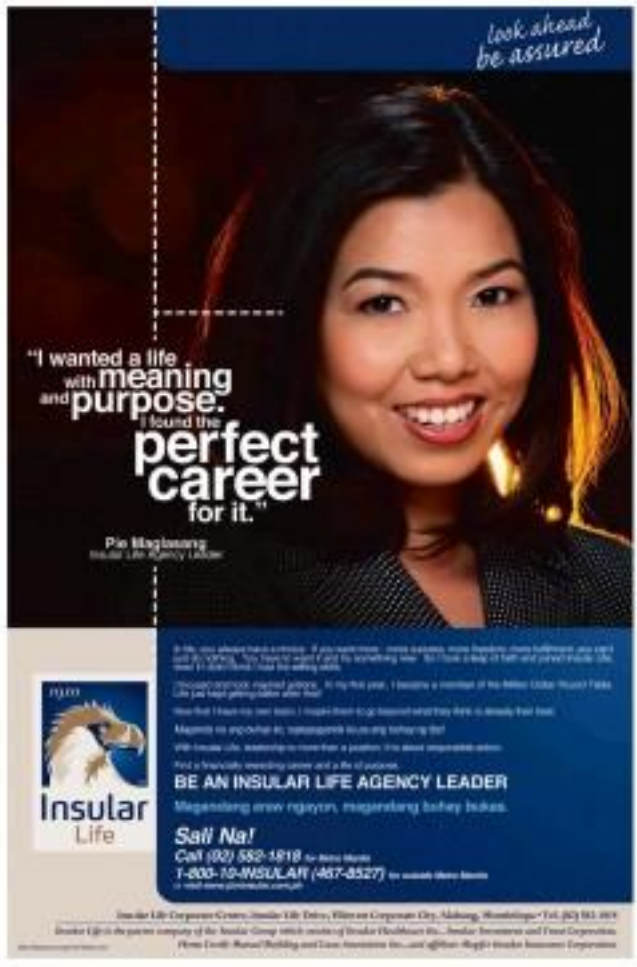
Chen, who studied industrial design at the University of the Philippines, said Starmobile was the realization of a 15-year dream of creating a local phone brand that can compete with the world's top members.

"Thanks to its clever combination of innovation and style, Starmobile lives up to its promise of top-of-the-line craftsmanship with its full range of cloud SIM mobile phones," Chen said in a statement.

The company launched nine new models on Thursday, led by its flagship device, the Starcraft. The U1—a phone with a 5.5-inch touch display, a 1.2-megapixel camera, and built-in applications such as Facebook, Twitter and Inquirer.net. The U1 sells at P3,290 each.

With its official launch, Starmobile said it would put up more stores around the country and have its devices carried by more resellers. At the moment, Starmobile only has one exclusive store, which is located in Davao.

Despite the growing popularity of smart phones like the Apple iPhone and the recently released Samsung Galaxy S3, Starmobile said the bulk of all mobile phone users still carry lower-priced "feature phones" in their pockets.



Marketing Buzz

BUSINESS Friday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Consumers need to strip the hype off e-readers

Having a Kindle may not necessarily light up minds

Text and photo by
Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

BUZZING on informal talk with parents of St. Scholastica students, La Salle's IT Consultant Jun Lozada of the ITE Broadband communicney highlighted the apparent success of the implementation of e-book readers in La Salle classrooms.

Naturally, a whole new industry stands to gain from such a trend, and many parents simply go with what seems to be the inevitable tide.

But a deeper question also needs to be asked: Are e-book readers the only way to digitize a classroom? With various useful issues regarding the use, importance pricing of e-books, a second look at the supply chain also needs to be done.

Following are a few critical ideas that parents and potential e-book reader buyers can think about.

Proprietary

Amazon launched an e-book reader, the Kindle, that sells for roughly $400 to $500, or P1,500 to P1,800. The price and its cost of products.

Books for Kindle are proprietary, but can be read on other gadgets with an Amazon reader application. Kindle is no more a passive e-ink display than it cannot on the one, while other gadgets are active displays that can be read even in the dark.

For those who wish to publish for the Kindle, they have to do it using the proprietary Kindle e-book format.

It appears logical that any proposed gadget that is priced beyond the above amount deserves some explanation. To me, La Salle Greenhills' initial e-rubber was expected to have cost an additional P18,500 in tuition fees.

Also, Samsung Galaxy Tab e-book readers can range from around P18,000 to P35,000. The Apple iPad2 runs around P18,990 at the online store.

Such gadgets can run the open e-pub e-book and other formats, but not the Amazon Kindle format. It may be worthy of note that these tablets are multifunction and go beyond basic e-book capabilities.

Basic computer

If I must use e-book readers cannot be made affordable to ordinary students, other options are available. With the main objective of lightening the book load of students and other common issues, the basic computer is could be a small laptop for usability—with an Internet connection it can actually go a long way in addressing the problem.

For education to become truly mass-based, schools are challenged to provide a system (i.e., shared computer network) that provides access to all students.

Publishers are supposed to develop and provide a format that can be downloaded on a regular computer—much the same way that operating systems are sold via CDs and subsequently uploaded on one's personal computer.

Copy protection

A technology called Digital Rights Management (DRM) is a copy protection feature that ensures book publishers and author copyrights are not violated by unconsolled copying of the same book.

Anvil Publishing is among the local publishers who have started running the engine on the e-book wagon.

"Anvil is currently doing a limited number of books for client schools, just to clarify for this school year," says assistant publishing manager Ani Bautista.

"The schools asked for a simple web-optimized PDF format for the books. We expect they will ask for a richer and more interactive format next year."

Bautista confirms that it is quite possible to format e-books that can be downloadable on a simple computer.

"Most e-books can be read on a computer. It's the application/program that will enable the user to open and read those e-books, Bautista says.

"If your computer doesn't have an e-reader, then you can't do anything. One good is to have our books available for download to at least 2 gadgets per time. Some DRM performances are optional by clients, and we'd like to provide them with this."

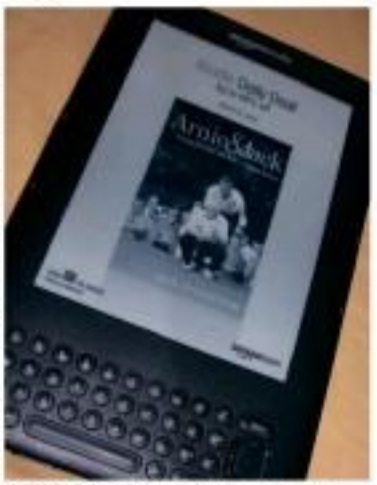
Freedom of choice

On another note, there is also a dilemma with foreign published textbooks.

Because of a Marcos-era decree and agreement with foreign publishers to publish low-cost textbooks here (using newsprint), the cost of e-textbooks is actually higher because those are sold at US prices, not at Philippine rates.

Thus, a paper textbook that costs P450 here might cost $50 or so as e-book, unless a new agreement is reached.

In order to avoid monopolistic pricing issues, the sale of e-book readers need to be promoted in parents with multiple choices and not as a single brand requirement.



AMAZON'S device is touted to be easy on the eyes in more ways than one.

Technology should be accessible to everyone and not remain the privilege of a select few. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that all students acquire the benefits of digitization with or without the e-book device.

The e-book reader itself need not be the main focus of digital progress. If you think about it, the possession of the latest high tech Gargantuan has never been proven to cause academic excellence.

New Global City structure set to rise at BHS Central

BONIFACIO High Street (BHS) Central, the latest addition to the posh retail shops, restaurants and offices in Bonifacio Global City (BGC), is about to be completed with the groundbreaking of a Southwest building that will house state-of-the-art cinemas and more fine-dining luxury and designer brands.

BGC's owner and management company, Bonifacio Development Corporation (BDC) and Ayala Special-ties, Inc. (ASI) recently led the ground-breaking ceremony of the new structure.

The six-story building will become BHS Central's high fashion and lifestyle hub. It will have a floor dedicated to top-of-the-line cinemas, a 12-theater, and a 3D theater. These floors will be for retail shops carrying brands under the Southwest SIL, and two floors for basement parking.

Posting the go-ahead building ceremony, Wally Lim, Inc.'s executive vice president and head of commercial business group Bobby Dy congratulated the team for all the work that has been done at BHS Central.

BHS Central's Northwest building will be fully operational by October 2011.

Airspeed to provide logistics services for SM tenants

SM SUPERMALLS has tapped Airspeed Philippines Inc. to provide comprehensive logistics services in transits and transmissions of SM Malls, particularly those in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Airspeed, one of the country's leading domestic freight forwarders, provides air and sea forwarding (inbound and outbound Manila), international and domestic door-to-door parcel and cargo services, packing and crating and long-term storage arrangements.

While the mall logistics program will have all SM tenants to engage in SOP3 reliable services, its main purpose is to ensure that all products are consolidated and delivered in the most cost-effective way possible.

By using ASP as the sole logistics provider for SM tenants, the mall's receiving department units will be decongested, while the number of trucks going in and out will be greatly reduced. Also, since the delivery is heavily consolidated, tenants will be getting cost-positive rates and a quick delivery service, as a great lane will be given to ASP in all the SM malls.

The scope of services offered by ASP include outbound deliveries, inter-island mail transfers and pullouts. At competitive rates and with no minimum volume required, ASP also offers a delivery report suite, a track-based tracking system and 100-percent insurance.

At seminar, baking made easy

NOTHING quite matches the mouth-watering aroma of fresh baked cakes and bread, especially when one takes freshly baked food with a cup of coffee.

Learn the art and science of baking. The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on baking and bread making to be held at the College of Social Work and Community Development on Magsaysay Ave. cor. Pantas St., University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

The seminar will take place on July 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be an actual demonstrations during the day-long session which covers custard cake, pudding, swiss roll cake, raw muffin, bread dough, quick bread, fruit tart, egg pie, cheese cake (oreo, blueberry), chiffon cake, mocha cake, butter cake, swiss delight, chocolate cake, food for the gods, apple pie, carrot cake, chocolate chip cookies, pandesal, baguette bread, tea bread, fruit bread, garlic bread, ensaimada, and flour bread (children and pooh).

Other topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing and step-by-step guidelines on how to operate into baking business.

There will be a food tasting experience for all finished products. Participants will be given a certificate of training right after the session. Lunch, snacks, handouts and all raw materials will be provided. For questions call 4211577, 4367826 and 9136551, or log on to www.GoldenTreasureSkills.com.

'If we go after DE market with the best product, can success be guaranteed?'

(Second of two parts)

THIS time we pose the advice of the Biz Bingaga Negosyoversus on the following question that was asked by a reader-entrepreneur and answered in part by Dr. Ned.

Q: We're a brother and sister team wanting to become successful entrepreneurs in the mass personal care market.

It's my sister who had the idea. She told me some how I had to say cabinet more "beauty and personal care" products than the had. And yet, she said, "there's no company that's the DOwel, Avon or SEAS Pardon of the snake."

She also said that the largest need, and therefore the biggest opportunity is with the class DE market.

Where we shared our ideas with our parents, my dad was very supportive and gave us initial capital to explore the cosmetics products to market.

My sister told me that what she learned from her college mates, eg, was that to succeed, our cosmetics for males should be economically distinctive by being the best.

I directed an entire year for this product development effort. We now have a line of high quality skin cosmetics of the best quality.

Our problem is cost.

Having the best cosmetics required the best raw materials and therefore high cost and high prices. We both know there was no way DE males can afford our prices.

But my sister said: "If we have the best, and no one else has, then if we go especially after the male DE market with this best product line, surely success is guaranteed."

I wasn't comfortable with this assumption and now seek your advice.

A: The Jr Mixer asked two of his fellow Gallingaspa Angelparenas nonkilalang sina Dr. Ned Roberto, coach and mentor building entrepreneurs at Go Negosyo seminars and conferences all over the country, visit www.Gobingaspa.net) for their take on the siblings' dilemma.

Here's the first piece of advice from Ronel Tiemeta, supply chain guru, founder of the social enterprise Manok Mabuhay SE, and former faculty member at Ateneo Institute of Management (AIM):

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Andy Roberto

Price sensitivity research

"This is an interesting story and would make for a good teaching case for value mapping.

"My initial take on this is that the siblings lusted themselves in a price point by defining product quality from a technical standpoint and not consulting the target market on the definition of quality.

"Naturally, they would expect cost profit pressure by positioning their product at low price 'low' quality.

"It would have been better if they benchmarked with existing competitors in the male DE market first and made incremental improvements in quality as defined by their target market, instead of accountantly developing the product using the best available raw materials.

"However, since they already have developed an extensive product line and targeting the DE market makes the business not feasible, one remedy is moving up in the C1 market instead.

"However, it would still be best practice to get feedback from the target market segment by product testing and price sensitivity research."

Minimum basics

The second piece of advice comes from Jimmy Lopez, Go Negosyo and Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) executive director/AIM vice president of finance.

"My thinking is that the best possible products do not often come out the cheapest and therefore probably not affordable at the DE market.

"So you might be tempted to price it low to cater to the DE market. But if the costs are high, it would have low or even negative margins and therefore won't be bankable and sustainable.

"What you might have to do is go back to your target market and really test with them and assess what attributes or factors in a product they really look for. Is it the cleansing benefit or the fragrance? Is it the other benefits, the whitening or softening effect?

"Which are more important to them and focus on those items critical to their needs and wants and perhaps just meet the minimum basics on the other attributes or even remove if not deemed important.

"The latter items are where you can hammer on the cost side.

"You must also review the ways and channels of bringing the product to your target market to select the most cost efficient ways and, in that manner, we also have the costs of making the product available to the market and be able to offer pricing at a more affordable level.

"Don't forget to make your product known to the target market by being able to communicate well the relevant benefits these products offer. Please select the manner you would communicate the benefits to source them or prefer your brand.

Assuming a limited budget, you can focus on your moments to be least expensive but more direct methods that cannot reach your target market, either by hooking only on one or two TV and radio shows they watch or listen to.

"Use the youth or online media-oriented products, the use of social media network and other online marketing means would do.

"Remember Rx is to test the concept with your target market to select only the attributes most important to them.

"That's where you elevate as focus the benefit and refuse or remove attributes least important to them so that the latter will be the source of your cost reduction measures so you can price your products at levels they will find safe."

(Questions or comments? Send them to marketingrx@yahoo.net or abrobertoenterprises@gmail.com. God bless!)

PLDT
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Success Made Easy

BOSSING AKO

SUCCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Justin Uy
Bossing ng Pioneer International Corporation

Mula noon hanggang ngayon

may palabra de honor.

At the age of 19, Justin was already thinking of doing something people his age would typically neglect: helping out with the family finances. That's why when he was in 2nd year college, he decided to make and sell dried mangoes. At first, it was a home-based business that employed 10 people but with the help of friends and business contacts he had made along the way, he was able to grow his company. In fact, by making a habit of fulfilling his commitments, he was able to gain the trust even of foreign business partners and clients. Now, Profood is a huge corporation with 6,000 employees and bases of operations found in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao that can produce 30 tons of dried mangoes daily, more than half of which is geared for export.

Indeed, the foundation of strong communication ties is found in each party's ability to be true to his word. Just like the commitment that PLDT keeps by extending the same level of service to everyone, from the individual to the home, even to the biggest of corporations.

Mga Bossing ng 2012: Championing Filipino values in business. Saludo sa inyo ang PLDT SME Nation.

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BUSINESS

IP E-Games eyes casino in Cagayan free port

Listed firm enters new 'gaming' sector

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LISTED video game publisher IP E-Games Ventures Inc. plans to invest in a different kind of "gaming" as it moves to set up casino operations in the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport.

In a disclosure on Thursday, IP E-Games, which recently spun off the bulk of its video gaming assets to a subsidiary in co-owned with Ivanhoe rival Level Up!, said it would acquire 36,000 square meters of land at the planned casino complex in Cagayan.

"The casino is a state-of-the-art casino offering the full range of gambling offerings including, but not limited to, black jack, baccarat, craps, roulette and slots," the company told the local bourse.

The company will buy the land for P75 million and will be paid through a combination of cash and shares.

The transaction was done through IP E-Games subsidiary, RAS Online Inc.

IP E-Games said it hopes to ride on the expected growth of the country's gaming sector, which is seen becoming a major draw for tourists across the region.

"Similar to Singapore's tourism income, which saw a strong 7.4 percent increase from $10 billion to $17 billion from 2007 to 2008, the Philippines expects a boost to its tourism income due to gaming and gaming-related projects," IP E-Games said.

The firm cited companies like Bastogne Branch JC's Bloomberry Resorts Corp., one of the four groups allowed to put up casinos at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) Entertainment City in Pasay.

Casinos, IP E-Games said, "will be key drivers in achieving President Aquino's vision of bringing in 10 million visitors (to the Philippines) by 2016."

The Department of Tourism says it is on track to generating tourist arrivals this year by 10 percent to 4.6 million visitors.

"The company believes there will be a 'spillover' effect of tourists to other key locations in the Philippines such as the Cagayan Freeport," the disclosure read.

IP E-Games said it was poised to be seat of Cagayan's major investors.

The company's shares surged 2.56 percent—outperforming the main index that fell 0.01 percent—following IP E-Games' announcement.

IP E-Games' foray outside of its core video game business was approved by shareholders in a symbolic meeting last May. The corporation has a public float of 3.2 percent, which means over 94 percent of its shares are held by its controlling owners.

The expansion into gaming is in line with the IPVG group's restructuring program in search of more lucrative industries. Earlier, IP E-Games' affiliate IP Converge was acquired by the BPPI Group, a project's firm with big investments in Visayas and Mindanao. Meanwhile, its former parent firm IPVG Corp. recently ventured into mineral refining locally and overseas.

In 2013, IP E-Games acquired several internet cafe chains in a bid to diversify its revenue stream and complement its video game publishing operations. More than two-thirds of all Filipino users still access the web through Internet cafes.

DA and agriculture schools

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

SHOULD the Department of Agriculture get more involved in agricultural education?

For Simeon Cabanyog (0606-333-8040), agriculture dean of Pangasinan State University (PSU) at Binmaley, Pangasinan, the answer is a definite 'yes'.

COMMENTARY

Dean Cabanyog told us how the (Mechanized Agricultural Research under Director Mercedes Ilaman had co-funded with the PSU a Grand Crop Research Laboratory.

But more important than this is...[illegible] collaboration to the adoption of a new paradigm, as minded, by more agricultural colleges.

Mission redefinition

Cabanyog is very excited about what he has seen at PSU in the last three years and that led his PSU team to redefine PSU's mission.

Instead of just educating students within the four classroom walls, he believes PSU should use its faculty's and students' expertise to uplift the welfare of farmers.

Cabanyog has a three-pronged approach.

First, he seeks to change the farmer's understanding of agriculture from something like "growing rice" to "making money."

He cited the case of a farmer who was motivated to do soil analysis on his farm to increase his income, instead of just asking the same fertilizer as his neighbor.

Through soil analysis, the farmer could determine the right combination of fertilizers, even shifting to organic fertilizer to make money in the short and long run.

Second, Cabanyog mobilized the PSU faculty to not just teach students within the classroom's four walls, but to also bring them to deprived, depressed, and underprivileged barangays.

The idea is to give the farmers new technologies to achieve the new goal of making money.

Third, Cabanyog sends his extension service students to do a survey of the needs and proposed solutions in the identified barangay. Depending on the needs, the relevant faculty and students in crop science proceed to give the farmers the necessary technologies and assistance.

Cabanyog says, "What the farmers need is very simple technology for they don't even know it. This is where we come in. The result is significantly improved farmer incomes."

To make sure this technology transfer is done efficiently, both "teachers' classes" and "farmers' classes" are organized to follow through with implementation. This is not limited to agricultural production.

For example, in the students' class, Cabanyog says that students now play less "long-ist" and get into livelihood activities. A key example is waste recycling (i.e., the less visible is now not wasted but made into business for sale in the market). In the farmers' class, additional income-generating activities are undertaken. Examples are mushroom culture, organic farming, and growing the seedlings from the PSU's tissue culture laboratory.

New paradigm

There are two main benefits from this change in the agricultural college's mission to include improving the lives of poor farmers in the community.

The first is that the students are exposed to practical problems and are encouraged to solve them under the guidance of the faculty. They are then not only more skilled in practical terms, but also motivated to stay in agriculture because they see the proved incomes and the significant help they give others.

The second is that the agricultural college becomes a significant force in improving the lives of the farmers in its community. This is a much-needed breakthrough.

DA role

DA, with its annual budget of more than P50 billion, should now allocate a substantial amount of attention and resources to helping agricultural colleges adopt this new paradigm.

It did so with PSU and must now do so with other agricultural colleges. DA should also team up with the local government units (LGUs) in this endeavor.

With DA support of this new agricultural college paradigm, our farmers will regain their important role in our society.

(The author is chair of Agritarch. For inquiries and suggestions, email agritarch.phil@yahoo.com or telefax 332-0223.)

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On March 30, 2012, PLDT's Innovation Laboratory Building in Muntinlupa, Manila was the venue for the fourth and final day of the Cisco Technology Update training sessions. Part of a series of technology updates held every year and spearheaded by Irene de Guzman, Senior Product Manager for PLDT's Domestic Data Category, the four sessions delivered in-depth presentations and training on the latest Cisco technology to almost 100 PLDT Engineers from Pre-Sales, Provisioning, and Operations, ultimately aimed at providing better service to clients running Cisco infrastructure.

This is especially timely considering that PLDT is currently in the process of migrating clients from its legacy PLDT BRAINS (Broad, Robust, ATM & IP Networking Solutions) Network to the new Cisco IPBB (Internet Protocol Backbone) platform. As part of the standing PLDT commitment to improve technical capabilities, it was clearly the right time for this significant upgrade.

PLDT's mission of constant investment in the latest and best technology available is felt throughout the organization. A precursor to this upgrade was the highly anticipated VoG2N (VoG3) Generation Network) expansion campaign. Cisco IPBB boasts a much higher capacity than BRAINS, with new links starting at 10G and a roadmap to upgrade to as much as 100G of capacity. Cisco IPBB also allows for a smooth transition of Corporate VPNs from IP/ATM to IP/MPLS, with PLDT's network featuring widely-deployed Provider Edge routers, dual homed topology, as well as primary and backup route processors for core and edge routers. Overall, this enhances coverage, resiliency, and flexibility. PLDT's Cisco IPBB upgrade now guarantees the capacity to satisfy increasingly data-hungry clients, and to support bandwidth-intensive applications with QoS (Quality of Service).

All of this upgraded infrastructure would be of little use however, without the skills and personnel necessary to test and maintain it. In addition to the investment of USD 1.7 Billion for physical infrastructure in fiscal years 2011-2012, PLDT has also invested in more skilled staff. These new experts include the largest pool of Cisco Certified Internetwork Experts (CCIE) in the Philippines as well as Cisco Certified Network Professionals (CCNP), Cisco Certified Network Associates (CCNA), Cisco Certified Design Associates (CCDA), Cisco Certified Internetwork Professionals (CCIP), and Cisco Certified Security Professionals (CCSP). PLDT also boasts the most number of Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF)-Carrier Ethernet Certified Professionals in the world.

All this skill and expertise will be deployed with renewed vigor as PLDT brings clients onto the upgraded Cisco IPBB platform and a new standard of bandwidth and applications.

Along with investing billions of pesos into physical infrastructure like international submarine cable systems and domestic fiber optic networks, PLDT has always maintained that the most valuable part of any service provider's infrastructure is its people. It is this twin-pronged dedication to exceeding customer expectations that makes PLDT ALPHA Enterprise a top-flight provider and trusted ICT partner.

Ready for the future: PLDT's team of specialists after the PLDT ALPHA hand-sign at the Innovation Laboratory Building in Muntinlupa.

Expertise meets technology: the characteristic blue hands of PLDT's hand-sign highlight the human element in PLDT's technological advancements.

DENGUE:

Prompt medical attention is crucial

By Joyce Allerton Garcia

THERE is currently no cure for dengue. Researchers are still working on a vaccine for the mosquito-borne virus that causes it. Adding to the difficulty of finding a cure is the fact that there are four types of dengue virus (DENV), which are DENV-1; DENV-2; DENV-3; and DENV-4 and causes variations in the types and severity of symptoms in patients. For the time being, prevention, quick diagnosis and prompt medical attention plus supportive treatment are our best response to a dengue case.

Symptoms

It is very important to know the signs and symptoms of dengue and to seek immediate medical attention once these are observed in a patient. Remember that it takes only a single bite from a dengue-carrying mosquito to transmit the virus. The virus has an incubation period of three to fifteen days after the patient is bitten before disease symptoms appear.

It is very important to know the signs and symptoms of dengue and to seek immediate medical attention once these symptoms are observed in a patient. Remember that it takes only a single bite from a dengue-carrying mosquito to transmit the virus. The virus has an incubation period of three to fifteen days after the patient is bitten before disease symptoms appear.

Dengue symptoms include the following: chills and body pain, including lower back pain, aching limbs and joints, headache, and even pain in the eyes; onset of high fever with bradycardia (slowed heartbeat) and low blood pressure. The patient may look flushed or have a pink rash or the eyes may redden. Lymph nodes in the neck and groin may get swollen. These symptoms may last for two to four days, before subsiding.

At that point, the patient may seem to get well and it could seem that he or she has recovered. However, if it is indeed a dengue infection, symptoms will return after about a day. A more widespread rash may occur and pulse and pulse may get swollen.

When these symptoms occur, the patient must be brought in for medical attention. It can be difficult to diagnose dengue immediately because its symptoms are similar to many other viral illnesses. This is why such symptoms must not be taken for granted. Do not delay in bringing the patient to a

PROMPT! B2 »

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TIMES 2 NA ANG KALABAN!

ANG ALAM NATIN, DAY LAMOK LANG ANG MAY DENGUE.
ANG TOTOO, PATI NIGHT LAMOK MAY DENGUE RIN!

AEDES AEGYPTI
Day biting mosquito

The Aedes aegypti are the primary dengue carriers. They are known to bite during the day with peak biting hours from 8am-10am and 4pm-6pm.

AEDES ALBOPICTUS
Day & night biting mosquito

The Aedes albopictus, another dengue carrier, bites not only during day but also at night. Its peak biting hours are from 6pm-8pm and 11pm-1am.

KAYA LEVEL UP YOUR PROTECTION!

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INSECT REPELLENT LOTION

AT LAST! PROVEN
DAY & NIGHT DENGUE LAMOK DEFENSE

Double Threat: A New Dengue-carrying Mosquito Species Emerges

Among arthropods, none is more dangerous than the mosquito. By transmitting deadly diseases to people, this little insect is responsible for around one to three million deaths every year. And among all killer diseases spread by the mosquito, few are deadlier than dengue.

Every year, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates a whopping 50-100 million people all over the world fall victim to dengue fever. And every year, 20,000 of these victims end up dead. Many of these are children and the elderly because, as DOH regional medical dengue coordinator Dr. Mario Manila Dr. Manuel Mapue explained, the immune systems of these groups are weaker than the rest of the population.

Thus, every year, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Health (DOH), and parents launch full-vigilance defensive campaigns against dengue. We have vigorously guarded our children against daytime mosquito bites, subscribing to the traditional belief that only daytime-biting mosquitoes are dengue carriers.

But Dr. Barbara Lavilla Cacdi, an entomologist, has bad news. Dengue is not exclusive to daytime-biting mosquitoes. Aedes aegypti alone. The truth is there is another mosquito species, Aedes albopictus, that is a known secondary dengue vector that bites from day to night. A laboratory study showed that Ae. albopictus bites more aggressively from the late afternoon hours to evening. Thus, the danger of dengue can now be more serious, since its transmission can occur both during the day and at night.

This means that the threat of dengue infection is now as great during the nighttime as it is during the daylight hours. This also means that we cannot rest let our guard down against dengue. While some of us need to lessen a sigh of relief once the sun went down, thinking our kids were already safe from dengue, we now have to maintain dengue protection from both day and night-biting mosquitoes for our children and ourselves.

One of the most effective ways to protect ourselves from dengue is by using an insect repellent lotion. Unlike mosquito coils, which limit our mobility and (eventually) deprive us of possession the moment we go outdoors, where the threat of dengue mosquito bites is highest, an effective mosquito repellent lotion provides protection wherever we go. It is convenient to apply, safe and easy to use as it does not limit our mobility at all.

And since the threat of dengue is now from both day- and night-biting mosquitoes, it is important that the repellent we use is effective against both species of mosquitoes, to provide the round-the-clock protection we need.

Among all the available mosquito repellents in the Philippines today, only one has been scientifically proven to be effective against both day- and night-biting mosquitoes: the new Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion. This product is guaranteed to give long-lasting protection to you and your family against day and night dengue mosquitoes. It is effective for up to 10 hours on a single application, it is convenient and economical to use. And because it is hypoallergenic, it is safe to apply everyday on our children.

On top of all that, the new Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion also gives antibacterial protection, which the Green Cross brand has always been known for. With proper use of the Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion, we can keep our family protected from dengue and other mosquito-transmitted diseases, not just during the daylight hours but even all throughout the night.

Dengue outbreaks may leave many buildings in ruins and cause distress among affected families, but with Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion, every parent can start feeling empowered against the dreaded dengue disease. When properly applied along with good domestic habits and community initiatives like regular clean-ups of possible breeding grounds for mosquitoes, dengue cases may be lessened if not totally prevented.

New learnings about dengue-carrying mosquitoes

By Joel Nigos

MOSQUITOES represent one of the most challenging insect groups to combat. They have established their niche in territory of a wide range of human diseases such as dengue, malaria, lymphatic filariasis and arboviral diseases. It was said that they have killed more people than those in all the wars the world has seen. Their threat to humans is real as they thrive and populate easily and it takes only a bite for it to transmit a fatal disease to a human being.

One of the most common diseases being spread by these insects is dengue. Prevalent throughout the tropics and sub-tropics, there have been reported outbreaks in various countries around the world including Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Cuba, and Paraguay in South America, Costa Rica in Central America.

In the Philippines, the Department of Health announced earlier this month of the surge in the number of reported cases nationwide. Dengue cases nationwide from January to June 28 (1) now reached 31,193. This figure is 3.69 percent higher compared to the same period last year of which there were 30,999 cases.

Most dengue cases are from the National Capital Region (17,676), Central Luzon (3,382), and Calabarzon (4,389). In NCR, most cases are from Quezon City (1,111), Manila (1,426), Caloocan (860), Pasay (710), and Pasig (478). Ages of cases ranged from less than a month to 90 years old. Majority or 53 percent of the cases were male. There were 191 deaths recorded this year from January to June 2. Last year's number of deaths for the same period reached 204. There is currently no treatment, cure or vaccine for dengue.

Dr. Barbara Lavilla Cacdi, vice president of the Philippine association of Entomologists, Inc., a professional organization of entomologists and individuals or organizations bound with a common object of interest – insects, sparking published studies in scientific health journals said that the rising incidence of dengue cases may be attributed to the encroachment of humans into the natural habitat of dengue-carrying mosquitoes, climate change and global warming.

This makes us more vulnerable to the disease as recent studies by Filipino entomologists from their observation contrary to popular belief, dengue-carrying mosquitoes are not only day biters as another species that bite aggressively during nighttime also carries the dengue virus.

The Aedes aegypti, more commonly known as the "tiger mosquito", predominates as the primary vector of dengue. But, most studies were focused on this species. The Aedes aegypti are known to be day biters with peak biting time during the early and late hours of the day. They often exist in the dwellings and they prefer to lay their eggs on artificial containers.

Less focus is given to the secondary dengue vector, the Aedes albopictus, which are known to bite from day to night. Limited published and unpublished research available prompted a laboratory study to further understand this night biting dengue mosquito.

A land study conducted by Filipino entomologists confirmed that the Aedes albopictus bites during nighttime. Dr. Cacdi said, "We found out in our 24-hour laboratory study that Aedes albopictus has both daytime and nighttime biting activities. At night time, we have observed additional peak biting periods between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m."

The Aedes albopictus, also known as the "Asian tiger mosquito" and a secondary dengue vector are rural or suburban mosquitoes, prefer to lay their eggs in natural water-holding environments, though studies abroad reported that they can also lay their eggs on tires and other artificial containers that hold water.

Dr. Cacdi emphasized that sanitation and personal protection are still the best ways to prevent dengue infection. She said that as long as there's stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed, the threat of dengue is real. Eradication of mosquito-breeding sites is indeed the primary defense action against this epidemic. However, we also need to protect ourselves directly from potential deadly mosquito bites. "Researches on dengue vaccines are currently on going, but until they are ready for use against this global health threat, we need to take extra caution in order to protect ourselves round the clock," she said.

Dr. Cacdi said that with the discovery that Aedes albopictus biting at night, there's an even greater need for personal protection against dengue-carrying mosquitoes. There are mosquito-repellent lotions that are available in the market today that would suffice. One product that would provide personal protection against day and night dengue-carrying mosquitoes is the new Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion. This lotion provides longer protection time compared to other brands, is antibacterial, hypoallergenic, and is also kid friendly. The Philippine Association of Entomologists, Inc. has recommended the new Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion as the best up protection from day and night dengue mosquitoes.

WHILE the enrichment is going on a City Hall employee spray anti-mosquito medicine at the surrounding of Barangay Luz Elementary School where the fire victims were temporary house.

CRYSTAL A. Olivares, Science Research Specialist I of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shows the over mosquito pollutes and Mosquito trap.

FIGHT AGAINST DENGUE!

Dengue – a non-common diagnosis that one hears to hear from the doctor. With some cases leading to death, dengue can strike practically anyone – young, old, male, or female – just from a single mosquito bite.

In a tropical country like the Philippines, there is just no escaping mosquitoes as a fact of life. Following last year's La Niña season, mosquitoes have been breeding non-stop and dengue has become a year-long communicable disease. According to dengue surveillance data from the Department of Health, we are now at 32,193 cases of the mosquito-borne disease between January and June this year. A 3.69% higher than the 30,959 cases recorded in the same period last year. And with the impending rains, dengue cases are expected to rise significantly.

Know more about the dengue carrier

The species of mosquito responsible for the dreaded dengue is called Aedes aegypti, which usually lays its eggs in fresh water. It likes to breed close to humans because we are its primary food. It is said that they usually come out in the early morning and late afternoon and bite from below or behind the feet and ankle where they cannot be easily noticed. That is why children are advised to wear long pants during the rainy season when dengue is on the rise.

What separates the Aedes aegypti from other mosquito species is the distinguishing marks of white spots over its all black body and the white rings on its legs. These marks may not be seen by the naked eye. And because the Aedes aegypti is a swift flier, it's not easily swatted by newspaper or bare hands. This is where an efficient insect-killer comes in handy.

Your efficient and effective weapons against mosquitoes

Aside from keeping your home and surroundings free of stagnant water where mosquitoes love to breed, it's important to spray insecticides regularly to keep these areas insect-free. Try **Kwik Mosquito Killer** (in yellow color) or Kwik Multi-Insect Killer Water-based (in Blue color). Their specialized formulas knock down dengue-carrying mosquitoes and other flying insects fast. Both use fine-mist cap that spreads the water-based formula more evenly in the air hitting more mosquitoes and killing them upon contact.

Your protection should not just end at home. Be aware when your children play outdoors or at school as they are the primary target of mosquitoes. It's important that you always apply insect repellent on their exposed skin. Equally important is making the right choice of insect repellent that provides gentle protection. Use **Guard Insect Repellent** with breakthrough formula Picaridin that is gentle on skin and effective against mosquitoes for 4-6 hours. Picaridin formula is a safer alternative to DEET because it does not cause skin irritation. With its non-sticky, non-greasy formulation and powder-fresh scent, you're one step ahead against mosquitoes.

So... free yourselves from the worry of dengue. Be **Kwik** to act and Guard your family against pesky mosquitoes.

BUG KILLER O BUDGET KILLER?

MAG-KWIK INSECT KILLER NA.
KWIK AT MABISA SA MURANG HALAGA.
SA KWIK MAY GINHAWA!

Prompt medical attention is crucial

Front page B3 ▸

clinic, health center or hospital.

Complications

Complications that arise from dengue can be fatal. The dengue virus may cause dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) which causes internal bleeding. The patient may easily bruise, or blood spots may appear on the skin. There could be nausea, vomiting, sour throat, abdominal pain, nosebleeds or bleeding gums.

The most fatal result of DHF is known as dengue shock syndrome, which is a collapse of the body's blood circulation. This is why patients with DHF need supportive treatment including fluid replacement and blood transfusions.

Again, prompt medical intervention is needed to address these possible complications and prevent deaths. Children are especially vulnerable to DHF. With prompt medical attention, the rate of mortality from DHF is low. Without treatment, the mortality rate could go as high as 20 percent.

Quick diagnosis and treatment

Going to a health center or a community clinic is the fastest way to diagnose if a patient has dengue. More than dengue is a year-round threat, the quick-detection of dengue is very useful in giving patients the right medical treatment as fast as possible.

The Philippines Department of Health (DOH) together with the University of the Philippines have developed an affordable Dengue Quick Test Kit. This testing method adds reactive acid to a patient's blood sample. If the sample turns green, it is positive for dengue. If it turns orange then the test is negative.

When the number of dengue cases peak, hospital emergency rooms may get filled up, slowing down the process of attending to patients. This is why going to a health center or community clinic like Clinic ng Bayan, for example, is a good alternative to seeking diagnosis at a hospital ER.

As a final reminder, never take dengue symptoms for granted...going to the nearest, well-equipped health center or community clinic can save lives.

As a final reminder, never take dengue symptoms for granted—going to the nearest, well-equipped health center or community clinic can save lives

Clinic ng Bayan is located at the Diamond Arcade, Aurora Boulevard (EDSA Araneta Center Station), Cubao, QC. Tel. Nos. 709-4142 / 0908-5661669.

EVEN with an aggressive campaign to combat dengue in the country, the Department of Health (DOH) announced earlier this month of the surge in the number of reported cases nationwide. There are 32,393 reported cases from January to June of 2012 which is 2.89 percent higher from the same period last year. However, there is a very slight decrease in dengue-related deaths which is 195 to last year's 201...also during the January to June period.

From the number, 7,610 dengue cases are from the National Capital Region which recorded the most number followed by Central Luzon with 3,383 cases, and Calabarzon recording 4,506 cases.

The health department states the alarm on dengue during the rainy season and that is when the health officials are most vigilant in information dissemination.

During the Asian Dengue Day on June 15, the World Health Organization said that the "Asia Pacific Region accounted for 75 percent of the current global disease burden."

Based on news reports, the change in the number of dengue cases vary from different regions or places. In Lapu-Lapu City the health officials reported a decrease in dengue cases from January to June with 147.

But in Iloilo City, there are 529 with six dengue-related deaths, almost 475 percent higher than the 92 cases with two deaths recorded in the same period last year. Last month alone, there were already 308 cases with two deaths.

Local government officials and health officers are always on their toes during these months. Many believe that the rainy season is when Aedes aegypti (Aedes carrying mosquito) multiply enormously because of the stagnant water left by continuous rains.

There are times in the past when hospitals had to declare a dengue issue for emergency cases because the numbers keep on increasing.

As the Cebu City Medical Center (CCMC), treatment of dengue victims is free. It includes blood tests for CBC and platelet count. The hospital is run by the government of Cebu City. This year, the city reported four dengue-related cases.

The government and even the private sector are working on preventing, if not totally eradicating dengue in the country.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) came up with an innovation that will hopefully kill mosquito eggs even before they land a chance to hatch. The 15-piece kit is called the ovicidal/larvicidal trap or simply OL trap.

The OL trap kit is composed of a black membrane container, a small strip of oviposition attractant, and non-toxic pellets formulated from pepper.

DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) conceptualized a project called "National Larvicide for Dengue Vector Control Program." The first phase of the project held from August to August last year yielded the development of the OL culminator which kills as much as 100 mosquitoes in one member. The OL Trap solution is said to have a 90-percent attraction rate and 100 percent mortality rate and kills mosquito eggs and larvae.

This year, DOST and the University of the Philippines Diliman developed a "rapid test kit called Biotek-M that could diagnose dengue in one hour and at a more affordable price... The technology would translate to better delivery of healthcare as patients to doctors would be able to quickly detect if they confirmed to have dengue."

According to DOST, "Biotek-M works by adding reactive acid to a blood sample. Blood that is infected with dengue turns green, while blood that is clear of dengue turns orange."

Facts about dengue

- Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection.
- The infection causes flu-like illness, and occasionally develops into a potentially lethal complication called severe dengue.
- The global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically in recent decades.
- About half of the world's population is now at risk.
- Dengue is found in tropical and sub-tropical climates worldwide, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- Severe dengue is a leading cause of serious illness and death among children in some Asian and Latin American countries.
- There is no specific treatment for dengue/ severe dengue, but early detection and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates below 1%.
- Dengue prevention and control solely depends on effective vector control measures.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection found in tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world. In recent years, transmission has increased predominantly in urban and semi-urban areas and has become a major international public health concern.

Severe dengue (previously known as Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever) was first recognized in the 1950s during dengue epidemics in the Philippines and Thailand. Today, severe dengue affects most Asian and Latin American countries and has become a leading cause of hospitalization and death among children in these regions.

There are four distinct, but closely related, serotypes of the virus that cause dengue (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4). Recovery from infection by one provides lifelong immunity against that particular serotype. However, cross-immunity to the other serotypes after recovery is only partial and temporary. Subsequent infection by other serotypes increases the risk of developing severe dengue.

FACTS, B3 ▸

Facts about dengue

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Global burden of dengue

The incidence of dengue has grown dramatically around the world in recent decades. Over 2.5 billion people – over 40% of the world's population – are now at risk from dengue. WHO currently estimates there may be 50–100 million dengue infections worldwide every year.

Before 1970, only nine countries had experienced severe dengue epidemics. The disease is now endemic in more than 100 countries in Africa, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, South-east Asia and the Western Pacific. South-east Asia and the Western Pacific regions are the most seriously affected.

Cases across the Americas, South-east Asiatand Western Pacific have exceeded 1.1 million cases in 2008 and over 2.2 million in 2010. (based on official data submitted by Member States). Recently the number of reported cases has continued to increase. In 2010, 1.6 million cases of dengue were reported to the American zone, of which 49 800 cases were severe dengue.

Not only is the number of cases increasing as the disease spreads to new areas, but explosive outbreaks are occurring. The threat of a possible outbreak of dengue fever now exists in Europe and local transmission of dengue was reported for the first time in France and Croatia in 2010 and imported cases were detected in those other European countries.

An estimated 500 000 people with severe dengue require hospitalization each year, a large proportion of whom are children. Almost 2.5% of those affected die.

> 'The Aedes aegypti mosquito lives in urban habitats and breeds mostly in man-made containers'

Transmission

The Aedes aegypti mosquito is the primary vector of dengue. The virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes. After virus incubation for 4–10 days, an infected mosquito is capable of transmitting the virus for the rest of its life.

Infected humans are the main carriers and multipliers of the virus, serving as a source of the virus for uninfected mosquitoes. Patients who are already infected with the dengue virus can transmit the infection (for 4–5 days) maximum 1(1 via Aedes mosquitoes after their first symptoms appear.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito lives in urban habitats and breeds mostly in man-made containers. Unlike other mosquitoes, he aegypti is a daytime feeder; its peak biting periods are early in the morning and in the evening before dusk. Female Ae. aegypti bites multiple people during each feeding period.

Aedes albopictus, a secondary dengue vector in Asia, has spread to North America and Europe largely due to the international trade in used tyres (a breeding habitat) and other goods (e.g. lucky bamboo). Ae. albopictus is highly adaptive and therefore can survive in cooler temperate regions of Europe. Its spread is due to its resistance to temperatures below freezing, hibernation, and ability to colonize in suburbanhabitats.

Characteristics

Dengue fever is a severe, flu-like illness that affects infants, young children and adults, but seldom causes death.

Dengue should be suspected when a high fever (40°C/104°F) is accompanied by two of the following symptoms: severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands or rash. Symptoms usually last for 2–7 days, after an incubation period of 4–10 days after the bite from an infected mosquito.

Severe dengue is a potentially deadly complication due to plasma leaking, fluid accumulation, respiratory distress, severe bleeding, or organ impairment. Warning signs occur 3–7 days after the first symptoms in conjunction with a decrease in temperature (below 38°C/ 100°F) and include: severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, rapid breathing, bleeding gums, fatigue, restlessness, blood in vomit. The next 24–48 hours of the critical stage can be lethal; proper medical care is needed to avoid complications and risk of death.

Treatment

There is no specific treatment for dengue fever.

For severe dengue, medical care by physicians and nurses experienced with the clinical evolution of the disease can save lives—decreasing mortality rates from more than 20% to less than 1%. Maintenance of the patient's body fluid volume is critical to severe dengue cases.

Immunization

There is no vaccine to prevent against dengue. Developing a vaccine against dengue/ severe dengue has been challenging although there has been recent progress in vaccine development. WHO provides technical advice and guidance to countries and private partners to support vaccine research and evaluation. Several candidate vaccines are in various phases of trials.

Prevention and control

At present, the only method to control or prevent the transmission of dengue virus is to combat vector mosquitoes through:

- preventing mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats by environmental management and modification;
- disposing of solid waste properly and removing artificial man-made habitats;
- covering, emptying and cleaning of domestic water storage containers on a weekly basis;
- applying appropriate insecticides to water storage containers;
- using of personal household protection such as window screens, long-sleeved clothes, insecticide treated materials, coils and vaporizers;
- improving community participation and mobilization for sustained vector control;
- applying insecticides as space spraying during outbreaks as one of the emergency vector control measures;
- active monitoring and surveillance of vectors should be carried out to determine effectiveness of control interventions.

WHO response

WHO responds to dengue in the following ways: supports countries in the reinforcement of outbreaks through its collaborating network of laboratories; provides technical support and guidance to countries for the effective management of dengue outbreaks; provides training on clinical management, diagnosis and vector control at the regional level with some of its collaborating centers; formulates evidence-based strategies and policies; develops new tools, including insecticide products and application technologies; gathers official records of dengue and severe dengue from over 100 Member States; publishes guidelines and handbooks for dengue prevention and control for Member States. www.who.int

A LOCAL health worker uses a torch to check for signs of water and mosquito eggs inside tires in a tire depot.

Avoiding the dangers of dengue

WHILE the rainy season brings respite from the heat, it's also the time when deadly water-borne diseases are at their peak. Topping the list is dengue, a mosquito-borne infection found in tropical and sub-tropical regions worldwide. Dengue's transmission has increased predominantly in urban and semi-urban areas and has become a major international public health concern, putting at many as 2.5 billion people worldwide at risk.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Aedes aegypti mosquito is the primary vector of dengue. The virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes. After virus incubation for 4–10 days, an infected mosquito is capable of transmitting the virus for the rest of its life.

However deadly dengue may be, it can be prevented. That's why MediCard joins hands with the Department of Health (DOH) in helping spread awareness about the disease. Just being Dengue Awareness Month, MediCard believes that information is power and when people are informed, they can take concrete steps to prevent dengue infection and even stop its progress.

It's crucial to be mindful of the manifestations of dengue, which include: mild fever to sudden onset high fever with severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain and rash. When suffering for dengue patients, MediCard president Dr. Nicky Moreno says, "Parents need to learn that seeking early medical care for their children may prevent serious illness or death. Thus, they need to recognize the symptoms of dengue."

Particular symptoms to watch out for include a high fever lasting 2-7 days that may be accompanied by anorexia, nausea, abdominal pain and subsequent evidence of bleeding. Prominent red spots on the skin or to the nose, bleeding gums, "coffee-ground" vomit or dark stools). Most importantly, parents must be able to recognize early signs of shock... the child remains ill despite a fall in temperature and develops cold, clammy skin, restlessness or drowsiness.

In case a patient goes under shock, the immediate administration of intravenous fluid to expand plasma volume is essential. Children in particular may go in and out of shock during a 48 hour period and close observation round-the-clock by qualified nursing staff is crucial until there is stronger, able activity than the danger has passed.

In addition, fever and dehydration can be caused by high fever, anorexia and vomiting, which is why fluid intake by mouth should be sufficient. An electrolyte replacement solution or fruit juice is preferable over plain water. Moreover, oral rehydration solution for the treatment of diarrhea is recommended.

Before a patient is discharged though, Dr. Moreno says the following criteria need to be satisfied: absence of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of antifever therapy; return of appetite; visible clinical improvement; good urine output; stable haematocrit; passing of at least two days after recovery from shock; an respiratory distress from physical effusion or ascites and an increasing platelet count of more than 100,000 per cmm.

When faced with such a life-threatening disease, having immediate and reliable medical care is of paramount importance. Fortunately for MediCard members, they can always rely on quality health care provided by MediCard. At MediCard, members can expect top-notch care from over 14,000 highly-skilled physicians and nurses in over 600 hospitals and clinics nationwide.

Moreover, MediCard is the only HMO founded and operated by physicians, which allows it to give more attention to service quality to its members. It is this genuine concern over the ability of working people to pay for much-needed quality health care that has made MediCard one of the country's most trusted HMOs.

To know more about MediCard and how it can be your reliable partner to enjoying quality healthcare, visit www.medicard-phils.com or visit the MediCard head office at 6/F World Centre Building, 330 Diela Costa St., Makati City. You may also call 894-5726; 894-9999 or e-mail inquiry@medicardphils.com.

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7 Steps to Maximum Protection against Day & Night Dengue Lamok Attacks

Now that we've discovered that dengue is a threat during the day and at night as well, it's very clear that our anti-dengue protection measures should be proven effective against both day-biting and night-biting dengue lamok. There is still no vaccine yet against dengue and no specific medication against a dengue infection. So the best way to protect ourselves, our children and other loved ones is to prevent an infection in the first place.

Below are some tips on how you can maximize your defenses against attacks from dengue lamok:

1. Keep your household and your surroundings clean. Mosquitoes tend to hide among discarded household items and other discarded materials like old newspapers, old shoes, etc. Get rid of the junk that has accumulated in the home and make sure the house is free from clutter.

2. Get rid of mosquito breeding places inside and around your home. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water whether this water is "clean" or found in puddles and clogged up canals and sewers. Be extra vigilant during the rainy season in getting rid of stagnant water in and around your house.

Throw out stagnant water that accumulates in old tires, discarded containers like cans and bottles, and other items that may hold stagnant water for a long time. Containers used to store reserve water supply must be covered.

3. Place protective screens on doors and windows. Screens are very effective in keeping dengue lamok out of your house. Periodically check your screens for any holes or tears.

4. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. It is advisable to wear clothing that cover exposed arms and legs whenever possible for added protection.

5. Use mosquito netting. Sleeping inside mosquito nets at night also provides effective barrier protection against dengue lamok.

6. Use an ovitrap. An ovitrap is a simple, low-cost device that kills mosquito larvae. There are resources on the Internet where you can learn how to make your own ovitrap or contact the Department of Health or DOST (Department of Science and Technology) on how to make or purchase an ovitrap.

7. Regularly use an insect repellent lotion. A single bit of an infected mosquito can be fatal. For maximum protection, an insect repellent lotion provides an added layer of protection that other measures cannot. For example, once we leave our house, we also leave behind our protective screens. We have no control over the cleanliness of environments that are away from our immediate residence. Many places outdoors provide breeding spots for mosquitoes. We cannot walk around wearing a mosquito net.

In contrast, we can conveniently apply an insect repellent lotion anytime that we need to do so. An insect repellent lotion keeps mosquitoes away and prevents them from transmitting disease to us through their bites.

Insect repellent lotions work well both indoors and outdoors. Just remember to follow label instructions on how much to apply and where to reapply the lotion.

Among the insect repellent lotions in the market, only Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion has been scientifically proven to be effective against both day-biting and night-biting mosquitoes. It has a long-lasting formulation that keeps you and your loved ones protected for up to 10 hours, so you don't have to worry about mosquito bites while your kids are in school during the day or sleeping in bed at night.

Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion is also completely kid-friendly as it is hypoallergenic and gentle on the skin. It smells great too. Your child can use it safely, every day. And because it's made by Green Cross, it also provides the same superior antibacterial protection that the Green Cross brand has always been known for.

Time to level up your protection with new Green Cross Insect Repellent Lotion.

At last! Proven day and night dengue lamok defense.

2b LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Shel Cabal

The peplum is back—supermodel Charo Ronquillo shows how it's worn

From Zac Posen to Tory Burch, the resurgence of the ruffled overskirt is everywhere

By Carmencita S. Sioson
Contributor

IF LAST season wasn't enough indication of the peplum's resurgence, then fall 2012 should be enough to convince you of its staying power. The feminine detail made its way from the runway to mainstream fashion in various permutations.

Skirting the issue
With this tropical-print peplum skirt, summer is barely gone.

Nightlife, rural teens' style

Away from chic bars and deafening club music, they have their brand of fun

By Hans Gabriel Arzaga
Saint Louis University, Baguio

NIGHTLIFE. IT DEMOTES clubbing and seemingly unending party. A large chunk of the youth's social life is devoted to this. It would be phony if I didn't admit that, on certain occasions, I experience nightlife in local mid-tiers.

'Tapa-tapsan'

Have you ever considered the nightlife of the rural youth, away from the society's chic bars and deafening club music?

In rural areas, teens are happy playing "tapa-tapsan" on the streets or just bonding with friends in benches in the town plaza. They do all these only after a day of back-breaking farm work and household chores.

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The peplum is back—supermodel Charo Ronquillo shows how it's worn

From page C1

The fit-and-flare silhouette was seen on Zac Posen's oriental cocktail dresses, Jason Wu's sublimates jackets, Peter Som's gauzy midi white frocks, and so on. Even floor-sweeping dresses weren't spared, as designers like Carolina Herrera and Tory Burch served up romantic gowns ruffled at the waist.

Peplums also came in different shapes and textures—sequined at Tory Burch, leather at Philip Lim and asymmetrical at Narciso Rodriguez.

If you're going for street chic, we suggest some ways to dress down your peplums while keeping your look polished and pretty.

Supermodel Charo Ronquillo parades the peplum on this spread.

In the mix

For contemporary bright hues for a fun take on the trend

Orange top, Zara; pink skirt, Dov Nino Melbourne; bangles, Forever 21; tassel flower sandal pumps, Lyn

Add a twist

Make your style statement by pairing a bright peplum outfit with an unusually detailed accessory like

Yellow tank top with fringes detail and tassel-tied lace peplum, Zara; bangle, Forever 21

Balancing act

Tame a printed skirt with a plain button-down top

WHITE collared top and cuirss' necklace, both from Dov Nino Melbourne; tropical print skirt and wrap-toe sandals, both from Zara

Two-tone dress, just Escobar for Myx

Double take

Play to the all-out femininity of the silhouette with a paper bag waist and peplum combo

Go classic

Add a new dimension to a simple color dress with an oversized bib

Plain peplum dress, Zara; floral ring, Forever 21

Nightlife, rural teens' style

From page C1

Unlike city kids, they do not have easy access to the coolest hangouts. The grandest gig happens in the town fiesta, where a local celebrity is usually invited to serenade barrio folk. It's a boardwalkian feast. They join activities and games that give away simple prizes.

What they really look forward to is this rare opportunity to showcase their talents in various contests. In these events they have fun, probably the same level only kids have to their nightlife.

If you are too senior, it is almost impossible to imagine people enjoying modest things.

Single

Life is hard, yet the young seem unaware of the simple ways to have a good time, without having to spend too much. It takes a lot to be humble and simple, no. Are we ready to go back to plain, basic, clean fun? Non-voyeur and playing guitar may seem hokey, but they're rarely real unbotherly charges.

There are times, after a night on the town, we wake up nursing the aches and pains of a hangover. Have you ever chosen ourselves in alcohol, let us take a moment to consider that our pain is a trade-off for experiencing the more complex version of ourselves. A few miles outside the city there are people enjoying the simplified version of it.

Harajuku love

2bU contributing artist Natasha Ringor expressed her glee, through art, upon seeing her fashion mecca

By Natasha Ringor
Ateneo de Manila, Class 2012

I WAS told Harajuku was only worth going to on a Sunday. That's when all the fashion-forward youths gather and dress in their most outrageous outfits.

Although I visited Harajuku on a weekday, I was still pleased to discover here the fashion was totally different from what I was used to seeing. Each individual had a certain genre that he or she was following, and it was amazing to open the "Oyasai" from the "Lolitas," apart from other emerging trends.

Truly the fashion capital of the world, Harajuku never sleeps in terms of fashion and new styles.

'You have to want it, you gotta have heart!'

By Eurice Beatrice H. Briga
Contributor

WITH THE JUNIOR 2012, the London Olympics and the 2014 World Cup coming up, the interest in football is soaring here pitch. Given the backdrop of the rebels' success and popularity, the growing passion for football in the USAP and the rise of football leagues all over the country, we met up with two of the south's rising football stars, brothers Mico and Lui Clavano.

The Cavano brothers have been playing football since they were kids—Mico at 8, Lui at 5—and their shared love of football led to a mutual love for one of the world's greatest football clubs, Barcelona. Not somehow is their passion for the game more evident than on the field, where they battle it out beating the colors of some of the country's best teams.

Mico, a Management Economics student at Ateneo, plays for the Blue Eagles as a midfielder or winger. Lui, who has suited up for the Under-16 Philippine team, also plays for the Reyn FC Elite's Under-17 in the Philmar Cup.

Their athletic prowess and commitment to the sport have that energy and heart we can only associate with the beautiful game.

What sparked your interest in the sport?

Lui: The intensity of the sport.

Mico: I actually just remember watching after high school football and decided to join one day! Loved the game ever since!

What misconception about student-athletes do you want to dispel?

Mico: People often have this misconception that student-athletes have it easy in school. We don't.

The Philippine Athletic achievements and the upsurge of football tournaments in the country have raised the profile of football in the Philippines. How are you promoting football at Sandbridge and Ateneo?

Lui: Football has always been strong at Sandbridge. We've been breeding skilled players for years. The culture there is set.

Mico: Ateneo is getting there. We're trying to get as many people to watch our games in school. The atmosphere is amazing in the UAAP games and it's a way of getting people into the sport.

How has this newfound appreciation for football affected the way people perceive the sport, and the way they see you as an athlete?

Lui: I feel like I get more recognition and respect from others now. And now that football is getting bigger in the country, you have more people who appreciate it and want to learn it. More kids are getting into it.

As an athlete, what else do you want to achieve?

Why football has become a way of life for brothers Mico and Lui Clavano

ON MICO (left) shirt, Zara; necklace, H&M. On Lui, striped shirt and shorts, both from Zara; shoes, Adidas Originals

Mico: Honestly, I'm not thinking of a professional career. I want to learn more than anything, the values the sports teach. Discipline, fairness, humility and respect are among the important values I got from playing football. As for ideals, as long as I am young and can still play the sport, playing for the Azkals wouldn't be a bad idea.

Lui: My goal for every game is to lead my team to victory every time we go out on the pitch. I would love to play for teams abroad, and grow in skill and experience.

Any games that stand out for you?

Mico: I drink the most memorable moment for me was when we won our first-round game against La Salle. I've never been part of the former La Salle rivalry. This was my first game. It was an awesome feeling to get that win!

Lui: Every victory is a memorable moment for me. But one that stood out epochally was scoring a goal against the Singapore U-16 National Team, when I played for the Philippine Team. We had been sidelined in the tournament because one of our teammates caught swine flu, and that weren't allowed to play. The day before we left, Singapore warned us to play a friendly game. That goal was the perfect statement for our fighting spirit, amid all the bad things that happened in that tournament.

Aside from school and football, how do you spend your time?

Mico: Academics is really the only other thing I concern myself with during the school year. I try to help my dad and older brother with work. Of course, I try to spend time with my girlfriend, too!

Lui: I juggle a lot of my time between school and family. I love them a lot and I'm very close to them. I could spend days on end with my brothers, my other relatives and my close friends, and if I had more time to spare, it would be with them.

How do you balance football and school? Do you have tips for fellow student-athletes?

Mico: I've gotten used to dividing my time and setting priorities. I think the best advice I can give is to know that you can't really please everyone. You have to set priorities and know what deserves more work or due moment.

Lui: It's all about time management. A student-athlete must study as hard as he or she plays.

Why should Filipinos get into football? What can they get out of the sport?

Mico: I truly believe Filipinos are perfect for football. The body type and fighting spirit we have match the sport great! I believe with all the new structure and programs coming into the country, we can match other quality teams around the world and being home to our country!

Lui: It's just the best sport in the world! More than the skills you learn, football gives you a sense of pride. It's a very passionate game, it brings that out in us.

What's the most important thing playing football has taught you?

Mico: It's taught me that hard work pays off. Determination makes up for lack of skill. If you learn to want it, you gonna have heart!

Lui: The sport taught me how to be humble. It taught me to always do something bigger than myself, and it gave me a strong sense of loyalty and belonging.

FOR Forever 21 shorts, Bershka tank top, Aldo bracelet, Zara

Lexi Gonzaga, 20, UP Diliman
"Every girl must have black pumps and a tailored blazer"

SHORTS, Zara; sandals, Topshop

Back to school, back to style

By Ronn Jay Cupil
Contributor

When it comes to making a fashion statement, these students have done their homework

HEADPIECE, vintage chains, Ray-Ban

Justin Navarro, 18, UST
"I always try to make time to read a book. The smaller, heavier, dictates my outfit for the day. I have to make sure we kept all my books."

BELT, Amerikan Eagle; bracelets, H&M

SHIRT, Topman; pants, tailored by mother; Dockers shoes; Ruffle

Beating the odds

Everyone thought a six-man basketball team didn't stand a chance against a complete 15-man squad. But this group beat those odds and made the start of college basketball season oh so memorable

By Rhonda J. Fernando
Contributor

HISTORY CONTINUES to be written.

It's a lesson late the San Beda Red Cubs junior basketball team, currently with 19 championship titles, has produced, and is continuing to produce, some of the greatest collegiate and professional players in the Philippines.

However, it's also a lesson fact that most players from the Red Cubs program often transfer to UAAP schools.

But, in recent years, key players have also made the jump from the Red Cubs to the Red Lions. Names like Ogie Menor, J.R. Reyes, Jay-R Taganas, Boogie Hermida, Tonton Marcelo and Garvo Lanete have been hailed as three-peat champions in the championships from 2006 to 2009, as well as back-to-back championships from 2010 to 2012.

Last June 24, a new breed of lions earned its page in San Beda's history.

A seemingly insurmountable feat

It was unconscious on only an evident mission to red and white entering the court; nonetheless, the packed crowd was on to them.

Being in an advantageous position, the Arellanos crowd was also in a frenzy as its 15-man lineup ran in. That moment, most people thought it a daunting task to outlast 15 men. But no doubt its heroes is not the Bedan way.

Even though the first quarter was a barrage of three-pointers from the Arellanos squad, each basket scored by the Red Lions' star catch a loud applause from the San Beda crowd. At one point the lead was 11 points, which at the end of the first quarter was down to seven (21-28).

The heart of the lion prevails

As the second quarter ended with the Cubs leading by only two, it became evident that the depleted lineup still had a chance.

That spark of hope turned brighter as the end of the third quarter—the Red Lions were leading by nine (60-51).

At the start of the fourth quarter, the Jose Rizal Arena silenced with Arellanos' team scoring seven consecutive points. Number Nine Ogie Menor, J.R. Reyes, Jay-R Taganas, Boogie Hermida, Tonton Marcelo and Garvo Lanete have been hailed as three-peat champions in the championships from 2006 to 2009, as well as back-to-back championships from 2010 to 2012.

Last June 24, a new breed of lions earned its page in San Beda's history.

A seemingly insurmountable feat

It was unconscious

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LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editors: Jessi Epperson and Ria Francisco-Prieto

Amina Arunji-Advani

How to look hip, young and stylish—while pregnant

My first rule of thumb became: flaunt the bump

THE FIRST TIME I heard out I was pregnant, a mix of emotions came rushing in: shock, excitement, amazing joy, fear of the unknown.

I had so many questions. How will my body change? Will I feel sick all the time? How painful is labor and childbirth? And, last but certainly not the least, the shortest fashionista in me asked: "What will I wear to the next nine months?"

Visions of myself 30 pounds heavier in a dowdy floral baby doll dress brought me into a state of fashion panic!

Seeing a number of my close

NOW TO 64

Why everybody wants to be Liz Uy

She thanks her ex, John Lloyd—their breakup opened doors for her. Now she can talk about her dating history—and how she's paid her dues in her career

By Cheche F. Moral

EVERYBODY wants to be Liz Uy.

It seemed "it girl," she's glamorous, she's on the cover of magazines, she's friends with famous people and she dates (allegedly) men.

Liz laughed when told about the world's

ON COVER: mesh gown by Louis Claparede, at Metro Greenhills; Cz. On Angel: suit with high collar and pleated palazzo pants by Joey Samson; Van bustier by Mura Custodio. On Daphne: cream dress by Mindy Weber Tantoco; Scottie shoes by Mura Custodio. On Amanda: draped halter gown by Raja Laurel Person of Luarel; All jewelry by Jewelmer

STYLIST: PATRICIA

Fabulous 'F' girls reunite

Angel Aquino, Daphne Oseña-Paez, Cher Calvin and Amanda Griffin relive the old times in a fashion shoot

By Fran Kangleon

ON DAPHNE: sheer black dress by Mindy Weber Tantoco. On Cher: halter dress with bronze studs by Mindy Weber Tantoco; pink elephant shoes by Mura Custodio. On Angel: satin shirtwaist bodice and matching fur skirt with gadot inserts by Joey Samson; Van bustier by Mura Custodio. On Amanda: lace bodysuit and iridescent silk taffeta ballskirt by Joey Samson. All jewelry by Jewelmer

IT ISN'T going to last with these two, especially for Cher's ye-lis, (pink-speaking)—no way!" Model-turned-actress Angel Aquino marveled to fans and fits as she was being cast on the lifestyle TV show, "F."

The show's sample script had required plenty of bantering with co-hosts Daphne Oseña and Cher Calvin, whose fondest English class: with growing up in Canada and the US, respectively, and working in the broadcast industry. But Aquino, a journalism graduate of UP Baguio, need not have worried at all about surrounding up to them.

The "F" girls couldn't have summed up past...and the team up clicked with audiences. The new defunct show premiered in the genre when it debuted in 1999. It made household names of the cast, which would later include model Amanda Griffin (when Calvin joined a US news team).

Its iconic Lifestyle got exclusive access to the recent reunion fashion shoot of Aquino, Oseña, Calvin and Griffin. (The "F" girls got together again when Calvin flew in for a family while.) It was a milestone—all four have never been together, because "F" had only three hosts at a time.

Held at Bistro Isabel Philippine Plaza, the shoot called for the latest collection of Bench bra panels from Avenhimer and glamorous threads from fashion designers Joey Samson, Louis Claparede and Mindy Weber Tantoco.

Every bit a mannequin

Aquino, whose classic staples are marked by comfort over style, looked every bit a mannequin when she stepped into Samson's edgy lace-and-striped sateen ensemble. Yet, when asked if she still accepted modeling gigs, the 39-year-old mother of two mumbled a look of horror and said: "No. I really want to be walking alongside those skinny very tall models? They're half of me!"

Being host active on the camp has not deterred Aquino from pursuing a healthy lifestyle, though. The light schedule of her TV projects doesn't allow much gym time, but Aquino compensates by doing plenty of walking. She has been on a beef- and pork-free diet since 1987.

Her group of weight gains or loss is the fit of her years. She said she eats down on food when the pants become tight. "I don't like anything staying too long in my body, and fasting too heavy," she said.

Aquino believes it's just common sense to eat more veggies, keep hydrated, drop sardy 'cuts yourself not to gorge on food, and not be idle.

Aquino's career did not take a step gab next when "F" wrapped up.

The actress could be seen on TV soaps as well, recently starring in the Pinoy adaptation of Spanish telenovela "Bianca Isla Bonita."

She has also worked with indie film-makers such as Mark Meily ("Crying Ladies," 2003), Adolf Alix ("Donsol" and "Kubrador"), and Brillante Mendoza ("Tribulan"), whose latest project with the actress is "Captive," an entry to the 65th Cannes Film Festival which premiers French actress Isabelle Huppert.

"Indie films are really popular and a lot of people just want to tell their story but... sometimes they (filmmakers) think an edgy story is good enough to be indie," said Aquino. "But no indie is good at all that matters. It can be the simplest story but it's the execution that gives it an indie flavor that's why I really choose my material."

Her career role model? "Daphne," she said without hesitation.

"I've seen how other stars packaged herself and made a brand out of her name," Aquino said of her former co-host.

"I don't know if I could ever do what she has done, but I hope to also be successful doing something outside the entertainment business, in creating something of my own."

Celebrity-entrepreneur

Daphne Oseña-Paez, 42, had not imagined becoming the celebrity-entrepreneur she is today. It was not even a career path she had imagined in her youth.

After taking up Urban Studies and Fine Arts at the University of Toronto in Canada, she went to the Philippines to start a career, although with a deadline looming over her head. Her parents told her to come back if she marries she was seeking to finish college (specifically, in a year).

"But I was falling in love with (broadcast journalist) Patrick (Daza)," she said, referring to the man she would eventually marry and with whom she would have three kids.

At the time, Patrick was a management level director and in a position to groom light shows in ABS-CBN. He prepared to make a show for his future wife.

"F" not only gave Daphne a reason to stay in the country, it also became a launchpad for endeavors that would benefit from her writing, producing and design skills. When the program went off the air, she created her own weekly show, "Urban Zone," about homes and interior design, which was right up her alley.

To no production seats, Paez recently started to the Internet, where "Daphne Loves" is premiered as a series of webisodes. The episodes include, she discovered, she served her well in developing a lifestyle brand.

"It all happened organically," said Paez, whose venture into product design started with bed linens.

The ultimate Celestine furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue, and hopes to simulate how he has taken care of the creative and brand-building aspects of his business. "Being a furniture designer isn't just being a furniture designer; you have to establish a brand," said Paez.

Daphne, the brand, is now made of a collection of furniture, a line of furniture, including whimsical chairs which were featured in Vogue Italia, knife- and vintage-inspired jewelry, and her latest collaborative effort, home scents for Bench.

"When I put all the products together I realized they represent one look, an old World charm, so I revamped everything (Daphne.ph) to have the same character," said Paez, who still considers herself "traditional media" because of her on the job training in broadcasting.

"With the digital age, everybody can self-publish, so the edge for being established as a journalist is that you're not just reading and saying. There's still discipline."

Where she's not occupied with building her brand, Paez is from the TV's talk shows, "Cookabix," with Vic Aganon.

She says lifestyle involves moderation, such as eating healthy, exercising several hours and children who happen to love fried chicken—and doing exercises, such as running and Barre 3.

Among her goals for the brand, Shea said, "is to one day be in a place where it doesn't matter where you live and you're able to have a business.

"I have two worlds...I have a family in Canada and I have a home here, as I always feel so split," explained Paez. "If I could dream big, I would love to have a global brand. Globally, designers are all about collaborations, so I hope it's not done to death because I hope to have a chance at it."

ANGEL Aquino, (right) is the hello the camera, and Daphne Oseña-Paez is the Internet-savvy Griffin jacks

Prime time anchor

Cher Calvin believes luck had landed her a job at NTLR. After seven years in the local industry's news network, she has proven her mettle.

In 2005, she was co-Emmy for co-anchoring the "ICLA Morning Show," and took home three Golden Mike Awards, boasters Californian's prestigious jobs for excellence in broadcast journalism.

Calvin, now a primetime anchor and the only one with Filipino heritage on the evening news in LA, talked about being a single, career-oriented woman without a huge of regret.

"I've just been focused on my career even since I left TV, trying to make sure that I have my work," she said.

"I'm really happy where I am. The network has been very kind to me, which I respect. It's like a family where we work. There's so much support."

Calvin believes she is in a position to make a difference, especially with the upcoming US elections. "I'm in the time to really just try to get the truth out—that's one crowd I'm media must, to deliver the truth behind everything and make sure people are informed," she said.

Closer, however is one of the people she looks up to in the industry. The veteran news anchor, said Calvin, "is one of the smoothest women on television, calm, collected, elegant, excellent at what she does."

With surely any downtime, Calvin tries to cope with stress by working out and running, going to the spa, or doing all three at different times periods.

Calvin's style staples are dresses. "Throw them on and you'll look put-together," she said.

Her clothing sponsor in LA, Black Ilis, has been satisfying her sartorial obsession with outfits that can be worn from day to night.

Unlike with fashion, Calvin said she has had to apply a little more self-control when it comes to food. It could be quite a struggle, she said, considering her parents but from Bulacan and Pampanga, provinces vastly associated with good food.

"I try not to binge because it's hard at this age to keep the weight off... although, I did have crispy pata and adigas," she said, confessing the previous night's indulgence with a sheepish grin.

Calvin clearly has a healthy sense of humor. Upon entering the prep room in Sofitel, clad in a neoprene-metal shift that hugged her curves, she was the perfect image of a tough anchorwoman—until she surprised her cops for chocolate.

During the interview, she showed us a video of her puppy, and laughed with gusto at the part where the little dog whined, barked at and attempted to attack its reflection in the mirror. In the shoot, Calvin would stretch her arms forward ("Who has arms this big?"), poke fun at her lack of model-ness, and ask the other "F" girls to help her strike a good pose.

It seems the dedicated career woman can be a goofball, too.

Glamorous mom

Amanda Griffin-Jacob has taken on a lifestyle she could not have imagined for herself back in the "F" days.

"I used to smoke and drink before I was married, which is all part of youth," said the model and TV host. She claims to have some ball circle, having witnessed a metathesis and the ballroom lifestyle.

The vegan diet, Jacob said, was something she had stumbled on inadvertently when Pete went her the book "101 Reasons Why I'm Vegetarian." She ended up pursuing the diet through her pregnancy.

Jacob raised herself and her family including two-year-old Brothers Baron, into the holistic lifestyle. They use natural, paraben-free products for skin and hair, and young Kieran is vegan as well.

What began with a diet overhaul has led to a wider role in the raw food movement, which led her to raise food preparation classes at Dalton Bazaar in Manila and nutritional food in HK.

As a newlywed, Jacob shuttled between Manila and HK for work and husband Daniel, whose investment job is in HK, but at one point she decided to focus on married life and starting a family. "I didn't want a long-distance relationship," she said.

The downshift in lifestyle allowed Jacob to enjoy her pregnancy and mother-hood, and her passion for the latter is now channeled in Mommyhood (www.mamasan.com), a comprehensive website dedicated to motherhood, raising children, and everything else in between, from behavioral problems to top trends, health and fitness for moms.

Her focus on family has not waned, but Jacob said she has remained involved and interested in keeping her fingers and productive. "I believe you can't just become totally one thing," she said.

"It happens to a lot of moms. We all love our kids so much, but I think it makes you a better person and mother when you're well-rounded, and feel connected and fulfilled."

Jacob is what one might call a multi-hyphenate: mother, blogger and magazine writer, website facilitator, model, skincare endorser, and host. She have recently TV project is "The Amanda Jacob Show," a lifestyle program geared toward motherhood.

Jacob hopes that any further career progress would be related to her website. "I'm CEO of the company, so I'm looking into ways I could capitalize in professional, such as the book directory, or other content acquisition. The possibilities are endless."

Just like her "F" girl friends, Jacob has finally come into her own.

Corporate Giveaways annual buyers' show returns

CUSTOM buttons and Crocs pens

FOR OVER two decades, purchasing, HR and marketing professionals have turned to one event to help make the business of gift giving simpler.

Corporate Giveaways annual buyers' show for business gifts, promotions, promotional ideas and merchandise inventors is the longest-running and most successful expo of its kind in the Philippines.

Now on its 20th year, Corporate Giveaways runs July 3-7 at SMX Convention Center. The expo showcases thousands of products that one can personalize, put a company logo on, use as premium items, or give as rewards for a job well done. Visitors get to interact with suppliers exhibiting their products and services in this three-day buyers' show organized by World Expos & Concepts (WorldExpos).

Business gifts include prestigious international names like Swissotto, Parker, Timex, Orris, Thermos, Waterford and Edelman, and home-grown brands like Tiolina, Manok's Leathergoods and Bai Cagayan.

Entrance is free. Exhibit hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit www.corporategiveaways.wordpress.com. You can also contact Pixie Idemne at tel. 8556152 to 54, or e-mail cg@worldexpo.com.

Why everybody wants to be Liz Uy

From page D1

research said in cooperation by top newspaper editor who was lamenting the dearth of young people who want to work in the print media and are willing to put in the work. They just aspire to be Uy said the journalist, referring to the fashion editor turned celebrity stylist-turned-tower girl.

But Uy herself would be the first to tell her sobering fans that "Liz Uy" didn't happen overnight.

Hard work

"It takes hard work," Uy said, who, this week, was introduced as the new endorser of Plains & Prints, the brand she has been styling since 2006.

"A lot of people think the job of a stylist is glamorous. It's not about rubbing elbows with celebrities and famous people. Contrary to belief, it isn't go out a lot. Of course, I go to events because those are adventures in [part of the job."

But, she conceded the spotlight got trained on her owing to the men she has dated. Just no one can accuse her of not having paid her dues.

"When I started as an editorial assistant (for Preview magazine), I used to do all the fashion pages, all the positions, on my own," she recalled.

At that time, there were no assistants, "so I would pull out and spend all day waiting in the mall, and even a whole day wouldn't be enough. I would be begging!

"In the summer I would pull out like a thousand swimsuits, I would shoot on my own. I would shoot the (bureaus of the) shoes, order food for my talent, create the clothes, and return the clothes myself," she said. "I had very good training."

Now "even the editorial assistants have assistants; the stylist just has to pick out the clothes in the store and an assistant will pick up and return them.

"I'm happy that I experienced all that, [even if I don't have an assistant I can do things by myself. Now they think as long as you have the car, you don't have to do all that stuff."

Uy now employs a staff of four, and has become as much a celebrity as her high-profile clients. Still, just as she was trained, she said she hasn't become too big for her designer breeches that she won't quickly drop on her knees in the solemn's been if need be.

"In shoots (client shoots, to let them know that they can still order me around), because that's really my job," she said. "Whatever I have now, it's the result of hard work, timing and luck."

I first met Uy at a media junket in 2006. She was then a fashion associate for Preview, and her name had just started cropping up in those fete gossip. She was dating actor John Lloyd Cruz.

Uy's work as an quiet and shy. She didn't call attention to herself; she dressed simply and didn't even wear makeup, a far cry from the chatty, self-assured glamazon that she has morphed into.

When she said her famous then boyfriend would go to the mall, his fans would either glare at her or ignore her. Pretty even sans makeup, Uy was self-deprecating of her looks. She admitted she had insecurities when she was younger.

"They say people know me by association, because of the celebrities I style and the powerful men I'm being linked to. Those are all true," she said. She also knows that her so-called market value increased exponentially owing to her dating history. Apart from Cruz, she also briefly went out with President Aquino in 2011.

But can the media attention, Uy claimed no much has changed about her.

"The only difference is that I talk a lot more," she said. "I'm much shyer. They used to say I'm aloof."

Dating history

Now she can discuss her dating history during intimate details that reporters would have killed to know back in the day.

Wanna no long who mag makeup," she added in jest. Uy maintains her naturally true Pinay through regular boning and Watsons.

Uy said that her 2009 breaking with Cruz had a role to play in her transformation. "The last teenage, right?" she said with amusement in her eyes.

"My dad says that he was grateful [for Cruz], that that [breaking] happened to me, because I was so sheltered," she added.

Uy granted she would no longer share the sentiment. "I might as well embrace it," she explained. "That is a blessing. It's so hard to endorse a big brand, or to land the cover of a magazine. I no longer care what people say for me it's a good sweet."

But she added, "I'm still the same. (I have just) evolved. I think it would be worse if I didn't evolve at all."

When she turned 30 last February, Uy mixed up with Viva Entertainment.

She looked mortified when asked if she would do love teams.

"I'm very happy where I am now. Why will I give people a chance to fall in love with me?" she said, laughing. "Viva wants to break me in, maybe small roles." But she would rather do TV boating.

Style guide

Soon after, she's set to publish her first book, a style guide for Filipinos à la Vera Gaerlan.

"Magazines and blogs have become more influential," Uy said. "It's like online, there's no more reason to look bad. There are clothes that are not so expensive, you just mix and match. She just have to learn your own style. You don't have to spend so much to belong."

Uy said there's nothing wrong with experimenting and making mistakes in fashion. Even the fashion gurus have been there. "I don't wanna look back! What was I thinking? I even cut my hair short!

"When you go to events, you can tell [which ones are the bloggers]. But they will evolve and learn what they're comfortable in. It's the environment. When you age, it evolves."

For Rosanne Fariñas, creative director of Plains & Prints, Uy was an easy choice as product endorser. Stellar, who shares designing duties with Rhett Eala, has known her for six years. Uy used to style the clients' brand's campaigns, and for the believes Uy's following of aspiring fashionistas is a potential market.

"She's someone our market can relate to," said Stellar. "Liz is a successful, thinking woman. We're not just about actress." (Plains & Prints' former endorsers include Gretchen Barretto.)

"Changing our style is out of the question. Plains & Prints has always been sophisticated, for the up-and-coming professionals. But with Liz, we want to say that it can also be different, depending on how you style it. It can be edgy or sophisticated. We have all the options. It's for the same market, but with different styling."

Styling Uy in the Plains & Prints pictorial were her older brother Vince, creative director of Preview.

Uy said Vince was a major style influence on her growing up. She followed him around, and his love for fashion soon rubbed off on his sister. Even now, as she maintains her roles as editor at large for Preview and Esquire, she said she and her brother collaborate a lot.

The Uy siblings, including younger sister Laureen, also a popular blogger who designs her own clothing line, are very close.

"We entertain each other," said Uy of her brother. He's her bro. I criticize who would call just to scold her about whatever it was that she went to an event. "He only wants the best for me."

Low-key parents

Uy's parents are both bankers and a very "interesting" couple, so shy and low-key that they're quite a contrast to their often photographed children.

"I'm so thankful for my upbringing," Uy said. "It's my family that keeps reminding me to, 'Magbigay ka; dasal ka; mapagmahal.'

"My mom says that when my dad hears about the guys being linked to me, he wonders aloud, 'Ano kayang nakikita sa batang 'yan?' When gifts from suitors arrive in the family home, the questing doesn't stop. 'Ano ba naman ang inaasawa mo?' Even when my celebrity friends name stars, hindi ako pa-star. I have humble parents who look up to me."

While Uy is enjoying the perks of her celebrityhood, often she still has to pinch herself, unable to believe her good fortune. "I was comfortable being a stylist. My only dream was to become a good, credible stylist. I only wanted to become a fashion editor. I exceeded my own expectations of myself."

Uy said she's thankful to Cruz for opening doors for her. "He's very special to me," he said. "Before we wouldn't talk. But recently we hang out here, thought a doesn't classic and bitter... The question, (people wouldn't have known we're friends) for him. But he was very generous about it. He said everything is cured in my hand work and talent."

She's not wrong anyone, and Uy said she can't help it that the names of men she dated keep cropping up each time she's interviewed. It's part of her history.

For now, she is content on being called "stylist-turned-endorser," as her list of projects and product endorsements continues to grow. "It's still unbelievable I imagine, I was just styling for Plains & Prints, now I'm their endorser."

So wonders everybody wants to be Liz Uy.

How to look hip, young and stylish—while pregnant

From page D1

It took: become pregnant under the world's gic about my own pregnancy adventures.

Having gone through three pregnancies in a span of five years, I have had my fair share of pregnancy hidden bits and misses. With each style choice I made, one goal was atop my priority list: how to look young, stylish and hip on my body wonderment have often proved toxic.

Sticking to this goal was not always easy. I don't think anyone can claim to have had an effortless pregnancy. Feelings of fatigue, discomfort, skin changes, body aches and pains interlaced with a range of raging hormones pestered me at once.

There were days all I wanted was to stay home, in my husband's big old T-shirt, to indulge my cravings for a bowl of coffee crumble ice cream—and not have to put on a freak face for the world.

So, yes, I will not lie. It is tricky and it does take effort to build a wardrobe and to rethink a "food paved" pregnancy look.

EYE-CATCHING and delicate accessories, such as an intricate necklace, earrings and rings, will draw the right amount of interest.

CELEBRATE your new silhouette and show off your baby.

There are so many factors a pregnant woman must consider, such as fabrications, silhouette, color, elasticity and comfort. All these can keep us mired while toughing to look young and sexy. Nobody wants to look matronly, especially when pregnant.

My first rule of thumb becomes: Flaunt the bump instead of trying to hide your belly under big, shapeless clothing, show that you are a confident, sexy and proud mama-to-be in body-skimming dresses.

I found it more practical to shop in food retail branch because the prices were more pocket-friendly. However, buy items in slightly larger size.

At the end of your pregnancy, carefully store all your clothes in save for the next one, or pass on to a pregnant friend or sister.

Accessorize strategically. Because clothing options will be limited, play with jewelry, handbags and shoes to inject a much-needed amount of excitement into your pregnancy uniform. They are the best ways to transform your look. Plus, you will still get to wear them even after pregnancy.

Expose the slimmest parts of your body. The general rule applies all the more when you are pregnant. If you must hide things here or there, highlight them by wearing show-tone and shoulder-baring tops and dresses. If your legs are your pride and glory, you have to show them off in shorts and skirts.

It also helps to find some pregnant style icons to look up to. When stuck in a pregnant fashion rut, turn to celebrities on the family tree and check out their style choices. That should give you a range of ideas.

I turned to three pregnant celebrity Heidi Klum for inspiration. Seeing her all stylishly decked out for each "Project Runway" episode as end-carpet event showed me that you don't need to hide out in a cave while pregnant.

Five can-no basic pregnancy pieces

Here are some typical pieces that can help you feel hip and young and avoid looking matronly when pregnant:

1 **Figure-skimming dresses.** Structureless, loose clothing can make you appear bigger than you really are. Long or short fluid dresses are life-savers throughout the long nine months. They seamlessly work from day to night and from first to third trimester. Make sure they skim your body just enough, so you will still need the extra room for expansion. Solid jersey fabrics work best. Look out for styles that highlight your new silhouette—fully skirts, dresses that cinch on a high waist, swing dresses and updated empire styles.

2 **Statement but delicate accessories.** A pair of eye-catching dangling earrings do not add bulk to your face. A sparkling necklace becomes a conversation piece. A stack of bangles and cocktail rings makes you look current. A long vertical necklace can elongate your silhouette. I find, however, that too big and bold accessories can be overpowering, given your growing belly thick to associate too delicate accessories.

3 **Fitted T-shirts, cover-ups and jackets.** Comfy but well-fitting T-shirts teamed up with cover-ups allow ease in layering. Avoid oversized silhouettes as you don't look frumpy. Think and close-fitting to most flattering. Rip jackets will make you instantly polished and fresh.

4 **Wedges or heels.** I know I will eye-brows arising with this one. But, admit it, every pregnant woman still wants to feel sexy. On those days, turn to your favorite pair of heels. It will elongate your silhouette and give you an instant touch of glam. Just be sure you're not leaving a definite pregnancy, and bring a pair of flats for backup.

5 **Stylish sandals or flats.** While I recommend heels for a jolt of sexiness, one still needs a selection of fashionable and comfortable flats. Build a flat shoe collection to last you the nine months. Choose an embellished pair, a chic ballet shoe, one in glittered style. You will be surprised at how many looks you are able to conjure with the same clothes by merely a switch in shoes.

Follow her on twitter @jerrinaramos

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— WHAT GREAT MORNINGS ARE MADE OF —
HOORAY for today!

Céleteque® DermoScience™ leads a skin care revolution with top NYC dermatologist Dr. Eric Schweiger

Inspired by the derma skin care revolution in the US and Europe, Céleteque® DermoScience™, introduced by local dermatologist Dr. Eric Schweiger, a top name in skin-based dermatologist, last June 9, 2012, Dermo skin care, also known as dermocosmetics, started as a specialized skin care category in Europe with products that combine the efficacy of dermatologists' formulations with the expertise of dermatologists from cosmetic skin care products.

Unlike the country's most trusted healthcare provider, together with Dr. Schweiger, leads the former Skin Care campaign here in the Philippines. Its endorsement is one of the top dermatologists in New York wherein he joins the esteemed Schweiger Dermatology Center. He says, "I am honored to be partnering with Céleteque® DermoScience™ and looking in highlighting the importance of healthy skin and educating Filipinos about science-based skin care."

"Céleteque® DermoScience™ is indeed a breakthrough in skin care because aside from being customized for certain skin issues and concerns, it also takes into consideration the different skin types, which helps to deliver optimum results," says Céleteque® DermoScience™ Product Manager, Vico Hernandez. "We are honored to have Dr. Schweiger as a partner in promoting dermo-skin care here in the Philippines through Céleteque® DermoScience™. It is our brand's thrust to provide expert skin care to Filipinos."

A renowned dermatologist, Dr. Schweiger boasts of long-standing professional experience in science-based skin care, which led him to establish a name for himself in the field of dermatology.

He is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery and his notable contributions to dermatology have also made it to numerous academic publications.

Dr. Eric Schweiger, top New York dermatologist

"I partnered with Céleteque® DermoScience™ because I believe in the products. I evaluated them myself and I was impressed. The advantage of Céleteque® DermoScience™ is that it takes a scientific approach, using dermo-grade ingredients, combining clinical tests to confirm product validness and efficacy, and co-developing their products with leading dermatologists who understand Filipino skin," Dr. Schweiger affirms.

According to him, skin profile is the first step to developing the correct daily skin care regimen. Céleteque® DermoScience™ provides care and treatment for aging, dry or oily skin, blemishes and pigmentation, with customized solutions for specific skin types. You can log on to www.celetequedermoscience.com for more information about skin analysis, because beautiful skin starts with healthy skin.

Locally, with Céleteque® DermoScience™ at the forefront of derma-skin care in the Philippines, promises beautiful skin that can definitely be achieved through healthy skin. Céleteque® DermoScience™ delivers the best in results-driven skin care with its six basic line, namely, Anti Oxidant, Brightening, Advanced Anti-aging and Restorative. Céleteque DermoScience™ is available at all leading personal care stores and department stores nationwide.

FITTED shirts are your ideal wrap.

WEDGES and heels are always very appropriate when you're pregnant.

STYLISH flats will be your best friend as your tummy gets heavier.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Derek Ramsay and Volcanoes charm birthday-bash guests,** 'Barber of Seville' slated July 13, 14 /E2

■ **New mural adorns the Abbey Church** of Our Lady of Montserrat /E3

Sun Cellular offers the best postpaid value at Plan 450

For practical reasons, more people are getting Sun as their secondary line or even giving up their old network provider in favor of Sun Cellular to cater to their connectivity needs. This trend can be attributed to Sun's economical postpaid plans which have made communication services more affordable.

It's easy to see why Sun Cellular holds significant advantage in the postpaid segment – a combination of good rates, value-for-money benefits, and excellent network service as a result of Sun's aggressive expansion plans and strengthened partnership with the PLDT-Smart Group.

The Sun Plan 450, for instance, easily beats out similar postpaid plans on account of Sun's attractive offers and network coverage, thanks to its over 6,000 cell sites strategically located across the country.

To start with, others offering similar plans offer limited services only. By contrast, Sun Plan 450 offers unlimited Sun calls and texts. This unlimited feature is very favorable to postpaid subscribers who need to be constantly in touch with their contacts – their families, business partners, friends, coworkers, or employers without fear of incurring extra charges once the bill arrives.

On top of the unlimited feature, Sun Plan 450 also comes with a generous allocation of 250 free texts to other networks, P100 consumable, and a free Smartphone to boot. The P100 consumable can be used for 20 hours of Mobile Internet, 50 minutes of international calls, 50 international texts, or other consumable values.

Conversely, slightly higher-priced plans from other networks offer free phones, limited calls, limited texts, and limited Mobile Internet only. With Sun Cellular, you pay less and even get more and better services!

Indeed, Sun Cellular continues to blaze the trail in mobile communications with products that are not just affordable but also address the evolving needs of consumers. Its range of economical postpaid plans, such as Sun Plan 450, delivers unparalleled service that maximizes the capabilities of mobile communications.

To get Sun Plan 450 or know more about other Sun postpaid plans, visit The Sun Shop branch nearest you or call the Sun Hotline 250 using a Sun-powered handset or (02) 395-8000 from any landline. Visit www.suncellular.com.ph or official Facebook page www.facebook.com/sunclubraph. Follow @sunclubtexts on Twitter.

CLOCKWISE from left, back row: Birthday celebrator Jojo Diokno with Nonoy Medrano Angeles, Marlo Fiorendo Silva, Bea Zobel Jr., Armor Reyes and Gina Tantoeng Reyes

ANTON Mendoza

MEDY Ramsay and Mela Concepcion Medrano

THREE generations of Romulo: Oscar Sr., Derek Jr. and Ellen Ramsay Barclay

MARY Araneta Ferre, Mila Tantoeng

MANCINI Zobel, Kaye Tingo, son and Andy Narquez Prieto

ACE PHOTOGRAPHER Alex Tee Hagen, Carla and Al Tengco

EDANGELES, Metro Society editor in chief Raul Manzano, Nonoy Medrano Angeles and Jojo Diokno

TRAYS Frolic Lisbianca, Baby Girl Frolic, Cecile Reynoso and Monchie Monchaca Soriano

JOHNNY Velasquez, Bianca Manalo, John Prieto

Derek Ramsay and Volcanoes charm birthday-bash guests, 'Barber of Seville' slated July 13, 14

CONCHITA Gina Teko and Maria Montal

FABIO Medrano

PHILIPPINE Volcanoes' Chris Ferringham and Jake Letts

MATTEO Guidicelli and Veana Arozaga Perez

ANDREW Gan, Ana Manzano and Dwight Ashton

GERARD Sicat and Vicky Zobel

CRISTALLE Bob Navarro, Aiko Lejano Sobio and Karen Santos

CHOY Cojuangco

JONATHAN Pilot, Adan Navarro, Baby Girl Frolic, Pepper Tadeo-Lee

ARTHUR Espiritu, soprano Rachelle Dorotan, Ronaldo and Philippine-Italian Association president Zenaida Tadeo, and baritone Andrew Fernando

ER CRUZ and Carol Servio

CRISTALLE Bob Navarro and Bella Gutierrez

PACO Villegas, Jojo Diokno, Carla Tengco and James Reid

CCP PRESIDENT Raul Sunico, Nestor Jardin, Italian Ambassador Luca Fornari and Silvana Fornari

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Massive firepower

Photos by Alex Tee Hagen
powered by **HIGH PEAK SERVE**

Truly worthy of a grand dame, Mely Tantoeng-Medrano was decked in bling-bling and was serving as imperial black beauty headed ballroom by Jinde Sisters, no less. Seated beside her was Derek's mom, et in a pristine white Valentino number, Medy Romulo, and her beautiful daughter Ellen.

Barely and Jojo's guests came in full social force: Ambassador Anders Rosas, international socialite Ruby Ferra, world traveler Candida Tolis, Dandy Tantoco, Miss Tantoeng, Miss Tantoeng Bistan, Bea Zobel and glam gal Ricky Zobel, dahlings.

The exquisite buffet consisting of eight dishes was simply superb! Aside from the three inches, there were the to-die-for baked salmon, lobster salpicao, green salad, cobbler with garlic, pasture, Viet summer spring roll, and 1.8 sinfully calorific desserts, not counting!

Executive Chef Tejinaxpa sent her renowned coffee crunch cake. Needless to say, everyone went "ravish crazy," dahlings.

A fabulous birthday week, I must say, that is hard to match...at least for now.

'Barber of Seville'

Imagine a bankrupt smuggling war satisfied with a shady agent who also happens to save the film studio she works in. Throw in a star struck and lustful auditionee, plus a battleheaver with a flair for intrigue, and you have the spicy ingredients of "Barber of Seville." Rossini's important opera with bouts of catchy melodies and brilliant orchestrations, that will enthrall and entertain theater goers at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on July 13-14, both shows at 8 p.m., pulongpot.

This acclaimed opera marks the triple anniversary of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Italy, the 60th anniversary of Rotarex, which has pioneered the distribution of high-class Italian merchandise and the 50th anniversary of the Philippine-Italian Association for promoting cultural exchange between the Philippines and Italy.

Ramsay's, Peninsula Manila, and the Italian Embassy are joining hands in making the opera gala possible and a must-see happening, pulongpot.

Main beneficiary of "Barber of Seville" is the Philippine-Italian Association Endowment Fund, which supports cultural events.

Other beneficiaries are the Sister Handmaids of Charity and the forwards of Charity, run by Italian missionaries devoted to the care of the sick, elderly, special children, abandoned and malnourished children.

The proceeds will also support the 2012 tour of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra of the United States.

You'll definitely enjoy this awesome opera, dahlings, so be there, since you will also be helping the needy.

Tickets are available at Ticket World, tel. 891[illegible]; CCP Box Office, tel. 832[illegible]; Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Ramsay's, tel. 893[illegible] or 895[illegible]; look for Lulu Canas.

TENOR Arthur Espiritu and Italian stage artist Antonia Parisi.

New mural adorns the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat

The magnificent masterpiece—enough to make San Beda a tourist destination—combines spirituality, artistry and history

By Tracy Pueblo
Correspondent

TO PAHAPIRASE the 19th century art critic John Ruskin, when faith and skill work together, expect a masterpiece. Indeed, behind the bronze doors of the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat lie masterpieces inspired by faith and interpreted by two skilled artists generation apart.

Built in 1920 to serve Manila's Benedictine monastery and San Beda College, the chapel on Mendiola Street is graced with divine images created by Fr. Leonoro Lopez, a Spanish monk who spent eight years from 1931 painting the whole interior—except his one spot.

"You enter the church and it is a wonderful," said Rev. Fr. Benigno Beltran Jr., assistant moderator of the alumni association and resident historian, gesturing at the magnificent murals on the ceilings before pointing to the back wall. "But when you enter me, you see this part, totally blank."

Fr. Alfred Silva, chairman of the Basic Education Department of San Beda Hills, was even more frank: "It was an ugly white wall."

It paled in comparison to Father Lopez's glorious expositions, like the "Allegories," a breathtaking series of life-size panels depicting virtues and vices personified that soar above the aisles and pews. The massive "Apotheosis of the Holy Name" portrays a gathering of blessed personages on the sanctuary's half-dome, while scenes of Jesus Christ's early life are rendered on panels around the altar and the 14 stations of The Way of the Cross are painted on the nave's arched walls.

Encouraged by Father Beltran's and the generosity of Carlos Gotell and family, the Benedictine monks entrusted Father Silva to fill the empty space and he knew just the artist for the task.

Monks' condition

Italian painter Francesco Gianniti was restoring murals in an Assisi monastery when he befriended the young Filipino monk in 2006. His restoration work allowed him "to realize my calling [as an artist]," he explained in Italian. "It is a vocation, not about money."

Crossing a mural for the Manila abbey was both a professional and spiritual opportunity.

After collaborating with Father Silva on a design, Gianniti returned via his hometown of Pendrona del Garda to work in monk-seclusion. "My wife worried I'd become a monk?" he joked, before elaborating, "But achieving the monks' condition [working in solitude] helped me to arrive at the kind of work that I could marvel at and would contribute."

He spent a full year making detailed drafts before the actual painting began in late 2010. Working 12 hours daily in a military barracks-turned-studio, Gianniti completed his masterwork last January and shipped it whole to Manila.

"He was never at peace until it arrived," Father Silva said of his friend's condensed, able artistry.

MR. LEONES Lopez's life-size panels that depict virtues and vices

MAYAMANG Bedan's Heritage Center, built for generations of Benedictine monks, also houses the school's rich, colorful history

FRANCESCO Gianniti's masterpiece blends with the existing paintings of Father Lopez' in the church.

MAIN altar and half-dome depict a gathering of the Blessed

Visual narrative

Composed of seven panels of jaw-canvas measuring 1.26 sq. m., the immense painting is an amalgamation of spirituality, artistry and history—the Benedictine Society in the Philippines' Islands rests on vivid pigment.

The visual narrative begins on the top panels depicting the Benedictine mission, from its origins in the Montecrest monastery of Spain to its first Filipino co-subjidiocese in Bontgao.

Bridging them to the Resurrected Christ embracing a specially designed nave window above St. Benedict and his sister, St. Scholastica.

The bottom half is populated by persons of prominence in Benedictine and Filipino religious history: Gianniti first sketched their portraits in turquoise, a centuries-old technique using oxide of hematite mineral named for its reddish color resembling dried blood; visible the anonymous figures in Father Lopez's canvas, the studies are mostly based on photographs of real people, through closer observation reveals Father Bienvenido and Silva and the artist himself among the benevolent faces of the monks.

Gianniti's trademark palette of earthly oranges and celestial blues are more evident from Father Lopez's age-stained murals, while his neo-Impressionistic style is quite distinct from the latter's Renaissance-inspired technique.

However, by incorporating classical elements such as the medieval nave wall behind the sibling saints and the Byzantine cross in Christ's halo, a certain harmony is achieved between old and new.

Fascinating details

There are more fascinating details in the beautiful book of photographs compiled by Father Silva to chronicle the project from concept to completion. Gianniti's original pastel drafts and sanguine portraits...works of art on their own...are also on display at the Benavang Bedista Heritage Center.

To the men who helped bring the Benedictine litany in the Philippines to painted life, each has found a special meaning.

The 97-year-old Father Bienvenido, it is the satisfaction of seeing the beautiful abbey church finally completed. For Father Silva, it represents a modern visual catechism and the faith story of Benedictine monks in the Philippines.

And for Francesco Gianniti, it is the culmination of artistic expression and personal spiritual journey, and perhaps even more: "If others look at my work and are also touched by it, then it would be a great satisfaction to me."

Cecil Go exhibit in Ayala Museum

TANGO MASTER and furniture designer Cecil Go opens two-exhibit "Themeless Footsteps" on July 4 in Ayala Museum, Makati. Five works encompassed by the four elements, nature, and the genesis. Show runs until July 15.

Paco Park Presents

Paco Park Presents stages "Mga Awit ng Dalitang Lahi," featuring soprano Vanessa Reyes and guitarist Eddie Suarez, June 29, 6 p.m., at Paco Park, San Marcelino St., Paco, Manila. Free.

Piano hosts the show.

Rapplesell sing "Lagi Kitang Hawak," "Dahilang Lahi," "Kaisan Ang Aking Puso," "Buhay," "Kung Mahaw Man Ang Ulap," "Sa Kabukiran," and many more. Admission is free.

Essay-writing contest for students

Brown Movement for Cultural Advancement, Inc. or Kilusang Kayumanggi, an nongovernment or garization which aims to preserve, foster and promote the Filipino cultural genius, will hold an on-the-spot essay-writing contest for high school and college students. Theme is "Philippine history and culture."

The contest is in line with Brown Movement's Kaltura Ko! Yaman Ko! campaign, which celebrates the richness of Filipino culture. Registration is ongoing. Call 8549838, 8748824 or 8154838; e-mail chrisbatchelor@yahoo.com.

Concert at the Park

Concert at the Park presents The Angklung Philippines Bikolanglung Kalayan, a group of musically talented senior citizens from Quezon City. They will perform July 1, 5 p.m., at Luneta Park, Manila, under the music direction of Susie Macio. Manille Pueblo leads. Admission is free.

Boracay Regency promo

The Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Spa offers the Love Seasons Package Promo. Book a two-night, twin-sharing accommodation in a Superior Room and get an intimate candlelight dinner for two, lunch and dinner, plus round-trip land and sea transfers via Caticlan for P8,824 net per person. Promo is valid until Nov. 11. Call 9207224, e-mail reservations@regency.com.ph or visit www.boracayregency.com.

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4 steps to skin rejuvenation and 8 effective products

Story on page F2

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4 steps to skin rejuvenation and 8 effective products

Cleanse, exfoliate, moisturize, put on sunscreen

THE START of the school year can be tough not only on our pockets but also on our skin.

Short, school hair, gadgets and stress, all leading to make up overy day at 6:30 a.m. slump and sending to my kids as they go to school.

There are skin-care products to choose from when trying to rejuvenate your skin. It is quite simple: rejuvenation involves cleansing, exfoliating and moisturizing the skin—regularly.

Hopefully these products will work for you, too.

KNOCKOUT!

Rio Francisco-Prieto

But before choosing a product, it is important to know your skin type. This will narrow down your choices so that you get the product that will give you optimal results.

If you are not sure about your skin type is (because it does change from time to time), research a dermatologist.

Know your limits whether your skin is dry, oily, combination or normal, you can venture out to the drugstore and find the products for you.

Clean face

The only time you should put a product on your face is after you clean it. Use lukewarm water to unclog your pores and take away dirt and residue. Work on a dollop of cleanser and rinse your face with cool water. If you find your skin is tight, your best bet is to use a soap-free cleanser, as soap tends to dry the skin.

Exfoliate

As that your skin can absorb the moisturizers, exfoliate. Exfoliating helps the skin in the natural process of removing dead skin cells faster and effectively. Do this after cleansing.

Some products are abrasive with exfoliants and those words, too. However, if this is news to you, get exfoliators that are less rated on a weekly basis.

Remember when exfoliating, use small circular motions on your face—no scrubbers before rinsing your face.

Moisturize

While your face is still damp, apply the moisturizer to it. best to use a day-and-night moisturizer, as night moisturizers are thicker and contain more than day ones used during the day. I have a couple of moisturizers I like to intersperse and use depending how my skin feels.

Sunscreen

The last and very important step to getting our skin's glow back is protecting it. Some moisturizers already have SPF and so do some foundations.

I use moisturizers without SPF and just add them on after when I'm out in a rush. Otherwise, I make sure either my SPF or foundation has at least SPF 15.

Choose whatever works best for your lifestyle.

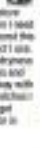
LA PRAIRIE Cellular Treatment Liquid Soft Glow. This product leaves my skin with a soft glow with the help of its light-diffusing polymers. My skin also look hydrated. It blends easily with just the amount my fingertips.

HUSH Pomegranate Exfoliating Mask. I love masks! I use one at least 3 times a week depending on what I feel my skin needs. This exfoliating mask is easy to use and I absolutely love it. It instantly smoothens the skin and hydrates it. This mask is designed to address combination skin concerns, including oily and dry problem areas. This mask is part of Hush's Vitality line, which is created to address oily and dry zones, clear clogged pores and keep combination skin balanced.

L'ORÉAL White Perfect Anti-Spot Brightening Essence. Age spots are not a sign of aging and maturing. Magic And will help regulate the production of melanin and shrink it at an amazing 37 percent. They claim that in eight weeks Asian women can signs that their complexion is visibly brighter, more radiant and it is more even skin tone. I can say that I'm on my second week and I'm already happy with the change it did on my skin.

CLINIQUE Pore-Refining Solutions Correcting Serum. This product minimizes the appearance of pores. It also helps with the sebum's balance which means less clogged pores for a more youthful appearance of the skin.

LA PRAIRIE Cellular Hydrating Serum. This serum is effective in three ways. Alleviating moisture, binding moisture to the skin and preventing moisture loss by restoring the skin's molecular moisture barrier. When I need an instant boost this is the product I use. It alleviates dryness and tightness and also shuts away with some red blotches I sometimes get when my skin is stressed.



DIOR Capture XP Creme Haute-Correction Riche. This product is the ultimate wrinkle-correction cream. Available in bi-activators, both with glow you smooth texture, intense plumping comfort and protects the skin.

PALMER'S Rejuvenating Facial Serum. This product contains Retinol and vitamin E to target fine lines and wrinkles, as well as prevent it. Limitations on the skin and to prevent very noticeable. I don't feel guilty when I use it.

LANCOME Absolut Haute-Vital SPF 30 Sunscreen. With this product you won't need a separate UPF since it's has SPF 30. It is combined hydration and protection in one. It doesn't silicone the skin once applied, and is absorbed easily. My skin is intensely hydrated and soft the whole day.

Pros and cons of weight maintenance with whitening tablets

THE MAJOR concern of most Filipino women are weight loss and skin whitening. When these issues come out on the radiators and could imagine the excitement.

The active ingredients are tablets is that 500 mg L-Carnitine, which shrinks fat cells, breaks down fat, and helps in the fat-to-energy.

The tablets also has 500 mg CLA (conjugated linoleic acid), which increases lean muscle mass and saves the fat cells as fuel to maintain the muscles and quicken metabolism.

Of course, the Glutathione, a fat-soluble enzyme inhibitors and therefore, cell damage, which contributes to aging; this is where 250 mg reduced glutathione teamed up with 50 mg sodium ascorbate comes in. It repairs and reverses cell damage to slow down the aging process. But you can take at least 500 mg orally a day for side effect without water which is odorless and effective.

Friends who have tried it noticed the weight loss first. As for me, the whitening and silky skin came first because on weekends I cooked up sessions up to 1,250 mg of glutathione and 250 mg of sodium ascorbate a day.

The suppliers sent me four boxes (a total of 40 pieces) to test. I'm not concerned to take four- one to three tablets after every meal. You are not to take it on an empty stomach. What I did was take one if I had a heavy breakfast and none if my breakfast was medium or light.

My doses were on days after lunch, depending on how heavy the meal is, and two after dinner, which is usually the heaviest meal of my day (eating pig out weekends). I would consume upon five tablets a day and I honestly did not gain any weight by Monday. On workdays when I usually have brunch, three tablets are enough unless I get a heavy dinner.

Good and bad

Good effects:

- Bathroom habits became regular.

I seem to the bathroom more often and my waistline dropped two inches plus half inch all each thigh.

- I decreased the required energy to go through the day and were optimist in aerobic activity.

Bad effects:

- Six day mouth, headaches, palpitations or dizziness like prescription appetite suppressants or diet pills.
- Itch loss weight loss was not impressive, but my guess is it better to dial down my hips. My shirts were looser at the shoulders and torso.

The bad effects

- If you hardly move the day you take them, you may get nauseous because your body is trying to get rid of that excess energy, so sleeping may be uncomfortable. (Having sessions does not allow for brisk walking outdoors as I am restless at times.)
- Was easy experience for queasy sensation you are expelling the excess fat and toxins.

I lost only two pounds on day 11! The logic here is that muscle weighs more than fat so your scale may go to the inch loss than the pounds.

When you stop, the energy level goes back to normal after two days and I gained the two pounds back after seven days.

I do not rely on the treatment solely for weight loss as it is expensive at P699 a box (which I consumed in just two days during my one weekend). Instead I think of it as something that will help you not gain weight over during weekend feasts when you indulge with your friends.

My weight was loss because of Glutamax Xlim you consider a bonus. Take advantage of the excess energy due to the L-carnitine and CLA/ benefits by doing more aerobic activity and weight training, which will speed up the weight and inch loss.

Please consult your doctor if you have any history of pregnancy, thyroid, high blood and heart problems, especially if you are considering taking extra L-Carnitine and CLA supplements on the side.

Glutamax is available at Watsons.

MAKEOVER 911

Kirsty Salas

The bad effects

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Glutamax is available at Watsons.

Paolo Cabalfin—how he keeps fit and focused

Meet the man behind the hottest training facility in town, Focus Athletics

PAOLO Cabalfin

YOU COULD practically bet on bumping into former tween promoter Paolo Cabalfin in the city's hottest clubs just a decade ago, organizing parties for Wotnis, Temple Bar, Neyo, Pardon and Cuisine.

But when he is just barely past the partying for a basketball exhibition, a bang pulled of physical therapy and rehabilitation caused a lifestyle change, inspiring him to return to his true passion in sports and athletics.

Impressed with the methodology and professionalism of the physical therapy, his strength and conditioning he received at the Mare Lorenzo sports clinic, Cabalfin, with partner Mario Lorenzo, decided to put up his own gym, Focus Athletics, where every-day athletes could receive the kind of attentive care and support he experienced.

The one thing that empowers me is... my faith and my belief in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's the one thing that always keeps me in check and reminds me to be the best possible person I can be in His eyes. No one is perfect and every day is a struggle.

My faith keeps me strong so that I can focus on improving the lives of people I come across daily. This is the best way I know to say thank you for all the blessings He has given me. I am so blessed just to be alive and healthy and get to do what I love for a living.

The exercise regimen I swear by is... what is taught in our sports specific training held by Focus Athletics. This arousing training methodology was developed by Athlete's Performance (AP), which handles many of the world's best teams and athletes in the US, and is basically a perfect hybrid of Elite Athlete Training that was chaos tailor-made to cross over into gener-al population fitness.

Think of it as the best training system sports science has to offer, formulated with the clients's needs in mind to get you to the best possible position physically and mentally to accomplish all your goals in life.

The one sport I absolutely love is... basketball. To this day my love affair with it has not waned. I've been playing it since I was child. Due to various strife my mark schedule, I find less and less time for pick up games and open scrimmages. But whenever I can I get on that court ground they call the basketball court, I'm on it I will play till the wheels come off.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Rocas

If I'm not in gym gear I'm in... custom-fit polo sport shirts. They fit me the best, physically and has forever I can wear them to work, when I go out, etc. It saves me tons of time and it gives the enhancer I have tried so far the day.

I usually splurge on... things I can get the most mileage out of, time wise. My last splurge was on a SUV I had always wanted. The turbo-charged engine and huge cargo hood sealed the deal. It's perfect for work, my dog loves it and is awesome.

POND'S Anti-Sweat Facial Scrub

MEDIA KIT

RALPH Lauren custom-fit navy polo shirt

Paolo Cabalfin—how he keeps fit and focused

From page F1

he long road trips in the beach.

One gadget I can't live without is... my iPhone. It is the one piece of equipment I really can't live without when it comes to everyday life.

My signature scent is... Purple Prada for Men in the day and the White Prada for Him at night. I love to versatility and, of course, the scent.

Three men's grooming products I swear by... Kiehl's SPF 50 sunscreen for when I'm on the beach. Pond's Facial Wash, which I use mornings and evenings. And the Lab series men's moisturizer, a line solely dedicated to men, but the products don't have strong musky scents, just a clean smell of sea.

A dream vacation for me is... anywhere where there is a beautiful beach to lie on and just relax. I have never been to the Maldives or the Caribbean, so those are dream spots.

What makes me happiest is... my dog Whisky. Seeing a firm man pee owner, I would have never imagined how it changes your life once

LAB Series Oil-Control Daily Hydrator

KIEHL'S Ultra Light Daily UV Defense SPF50

when you get home makes the crappiest of days so much more bearable. He is literally a godsend. Love ya, Whisk!

Fact box

Treats like a pro and visit Dejit at Poste Athletics Inc., 2259 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension), behind the Pasteake House building. Grand opening today. Call (02) 8217883.

Top Spa: You can buy Paolo's scent at Fresh Fragrance Bar at Eastwood Mall, Mahong Town Center, Podium Mall, Rockwell Mall in Davao and Marquee Mall in Pampanga. The store carries an extensive selection of premium imported scents, from luxury designer brands to small boutiques.

R&R Getaway

EARTH-COLORED sheer shift dress, knitted long cardigan

Going minimal: Is less truly more?

Tango keeps things simple with sleek silhouettes and earthy colors

TANGO'S MODERN minimal pret-a-porter collection proves that sometimes, style is an exercise in restraint. Known for its stylish, sensible and sophisticated ready-to-wear outfits, Tango's latest offerings include soft tie-accented jackets cinched at the waist with wide belts, and paired with sheer pleated skirts or palazzo pants.

There are also flattering shift dresses with geometric lines or subtle pleating, punctuated with well-placed metal accents.

Their sleek silhouettes create elongated proportions and an understated elegance, while their neutral and earthy palette completes the look of unpretentious sophistication.

Tango Boutiques are at 1/L, Cluster 9, U/L, Fitness; 1/L, SM Megamall B.

ELECTRIC-pleated white dolman top, long black pleated midi skirt

JULY 13, 2012, 8:00 PM GALA NIGHT
JULY 14, 2012, 8:00 PM LAST PERFORMANCE
TANGHALANG NICANOR ABELARDO (CCP MAIN THEATER)
Tickets are available at Ticketworld at 891-9999; CCP Box Office at 832-3704 from Tuesday-Saturday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm; and Rustan's Secretariat at 8952188 look for Joanne Rodriguez or Pia Lacanna at 8878530
You may also check the CCP website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

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HP recommends Windows 7
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The new HP ENVY Sleekbook™.
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Make it matter.
Simplicity
honed
to give joy.
HP PAVILION g4 NOTEBOOKS
Make it matter.
SPECTRE
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Extraordinary.
Now available in the Philippines
SPECTRE

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerson G. Velarde

Get well, Dolphy

MORE messages of love are heaped on King of Comedy, Dolphy, by colleagues. Actress Lorna Tolentino said: "We've been praying for him." From actress-director Gina Alajar: "The whole nation is praying for you," and from singer-actress Sarah Geronimo: "Please get well. You've given the country so many reasons to laugh throughout your career and we'd love to laugh some more." (Reports from Philippine Star)

HEARD

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Only three degrees of separation between Pinoy film material and HBO financing

By Ernesto G. Velarde

LOYAL viewers should know that there is nothing random about the round-the-clock HBO playlist. A lot of thought goes into the selection of films and programs to run and, of late, re-premiere.

The process is repeated periodically as many times as there are sublime territories and cultures around the world where each HBO feed differs from one another.

Take the acclaimed mob series "The Sopranos." Though it was widely popular in the United States and had won many awards, it could not be brought to Asia "until the number was exactly." That's because the programmers "don't pick

CONT'D

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Only...

what will appeal to the region." While also insists HBO Adult is not coming to Asia anytime soon.

Those sums up in a recent lunch with media heads, HBO Asia senior vice president for sales and marketing Bob, visiting from the regional office in Singapore, was urging the said bullishly about how consumers' experiences norms and mores. You'd think after 40 years, HBO would be trying too hard. Turns out, it has learned not to the push button role and is not about to let go.

Licensing deals

For the record, HBO's Asia consists of, in no particular order: Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, China, Macau, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, India, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Nepal, Mongolia, Cambodia, Brunei and of course Singapore, where the regional office is located.

HBO is based in the United States, with main offices in New York.

As for the "box office" to the HBO equation (it being "home"): The channel is able to bring blockbusters to subscribers through exclusive output licensing deals with four of the six major Hollywood studios—Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures, Universal Studios and Warner Bros.

It also licenses movies from major independent distributors including Castle Rock, CBS, Focus Features, Gramercy, MGM, Morgan Creek, Open Line, Summit and Village Roadshow.

'Game of Thrones'

Now think "box and the DIY," "Band of Brothers" and "Game of Thrones"—the three biggest HBO productions to date. The latest of these, "Game of Thrones," is based on the first of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series of high-fantasy novels by George R.R. Martin.

In a 2011 interview with the Internet, Martin said he could not have said yes to the prospect of filming his book fantasy than to the HBO because of the "incredible the humongous project. Online reports had estimated the production cost of the 10-part series at somewhere from US $1 million to $4.5 million per episode.

Such is the current reputation of the cable straight-to-word "movie channel" as producer Ask pointed out that most and most Hollywood movie stars were selling their rights—to television, and that some of the most famous names had been attached to HBO projects: Angelina Jolie in "Gia" (1998), Claire Danes in "Temple Grandin" (2010), Kate Winslet in "Mildred Pierce" (2011), Uma Thurman in "Lucky" (2012), Nicole Kidman and Clive Owen in the critically acclaimed "Hemingway & Gellhorn" (2012).

The great news is, the HBO producers' radar is trained on Asia, and the Philippines, according to Bob, is "certainly one of the countries being considered as a source of material—or materials, who knows? Already HBO Asia's first original co-production with Infinite Studios, "Dead Mine," has finished shooting in Batam, Indonesia. Bob said, "Going into local productions is one way of adding value to HBO [ownership] to the region."

Directed by British horror filmmaker Steven Shell, "Dead Mine" stars Carmen Soo, the Malaysian actress who starred with Jacelyn Rosales in the 2008 TV series "Kubit Kung Langit." Which translates to just three degrees of separation between Pinoy material and HBO financing—definitely something to look forward to.

Other aspects tackled during the evening lunch with Jacelyn Kuk:

Some have viewers' taste for material evolved?

Asian appetite for violent programs has grown. Viewers are now watching original productions with as much fervor as they watch the blockbusters.

Why are we seeing more Hollywood A-listers in HBO

CHECK IN

JASON Momoa and Emilia Clarke in "Game of Thrones"

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN - PG13
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN - PG13
2:20, 5:10, 10:40
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
1:30, 4:20, 10:15
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (In 3D) - PG13
1:30, 4:45
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN - PG13
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:55
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (In 3D) - PG13
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

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1 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN PG-13
12:30, 3:30, 6:30
2 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN 2D PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
3 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN PG-13
11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
4 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN PG-13
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN PG-13
10, 4:00, 10:30

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THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN
12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30
THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN
1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN
11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00
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When TV turns offensive and intrusive

Since it's an invited or uninvited *guest* in people's homes, TV should make sure that it doesn't ruffle the sensibilities of its hosts

AT VIEWERS' watch the small screen flood clues, some of them are much to utter lack of limits that is shockingly obvious in TV.

They point out that television is able to enter people's homes, into their living rooms and bedrooms, and therefore should be on its best behavior, especially because young and impressionable children can see and hear—and imitate—everything it says and shows.

Since it's an invited or uninvited guest in people's homes, TV should make sure that it doesn't ruffle the sensibilities of its hosts and, thus, unduly encourage its rudeness.

And not, all too often these days, the opposite is what's happening—TV shows and personalities are saying anything and everything that comes to mind, even if it's disturbing or downright shocking, because they feel that they have the run of the place, and that there's been no rules whatsoever they dish out, since they've become so popular and powerful.

Offended viewers have to reassert their right to set the rules in their homes, and TV people have to remind themselves to observe them.

Coincidentally viewers should clearly do to the line between what definitely is allowed and what isn't.

"There are limits!" they should insistently declare, and TV people have to observe those limits—or else, we should clear that offensive and intrusive TV will off.

Examples of excesses abound. Recently, a young star was interviewed on TV, and she was reminded by the host of her unprovoked diets, when she had to buy dressy pants for only her pants each.

Instead of blushingly pleading for the host not to "mention her weight troubles," the actress opted to take on the colorful conversation to show that she was "solid" and "game," and even added a chubby detail or two about the condition and color of her underwear!

As viewers at home paused and winced, both host and guest had a field day showing how cheeky and outdo they could be.

What could the kids at home have been thinking? That it's OK and even fun to mention private things on a public medium like TV? And, flaunt one. That it's OK to do the same at home, at school, and wherever else they choose to be or feel coming, unbridled and "in"? Oh, please.

But is, some other people who appear on TV say and do even worse things for many of the audience's chuckles and laughs.

Like that infamous public figure who harasses and bullies her victims and enemies in political debates in vile and vicious terms.

Or that stage mother who slithers her face with insults and tirades that should never be heard in public, especially by children.

Or those celebrities who had colorful interviews on such critics on TV that resulted in news being filed in court.

Why should viewers and their wholesome children be subjected to such distasteful excesses?

TV stations should have rules and that say unduly be implemented to cut off such shocking language and behavior before they pollute the TV screen—and people's homes.

TV hosts and guests should be warned that such excesses are unduly unacceptable, and that viewers' sensibilities have to be respected in all times.

If they refuse to observe these rigid standards, they shouldn't be allowed access to the medium and should be limited to nothing more than space, not the TV screen.

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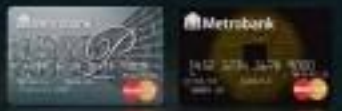

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SARAH Jessica Parker in "Sex and the City"

Only three...

From page C3

movies?

I guess because HBO gives the creative team full liberty.

How do you choose which shows to bring to Asia?

Two-pole shows like "Game of Thrones" and "True Blood" are definitely brought to Asia. Everything else, we discuss per.

[illegible] the movie business, the term "franchise" refers to movies offering not a stand-alone film but are intended to establish [illegible] a short period of time.]

Any plans to cross over to other platforms (viewing devices)?

The landscape is certainly changing and, with that, consumer behavior. Recognizing that, HBO Asia provides multiple cable and satellite operators to offer what the local systems infrastructure can support. We are in talks to introduce HBO On Demand (like Video on Demand, only subscription-based) to the Philippines. HBO GO (streaming service available on Android smartphones) is available in the United States and we are exploring the business model under which it can be introduced in Asia.

Is HBO Asia inclined to produce a reality or game show?

HBO produced "Entourage Confessions," but that kind of show is not major for Asia.

Why was HBO Asia's headquarters set up in Singapore?

Most networks' Asian offices were based in Hong Kong before. The Singapore government issued policies that encouraged setting up offices there. HBO Asia was launched in Singapore in 1991, then to the Philippines in 1993.

Any plans to go after advertising?

Our channels are commercial free and our business decisions are driven not by ad sales but by subscriptions. Except in India, which is a unique market.

Will we soon be getting HBO in 3D?

Not in the near future.

What about subtitles?

Subtitles in local languages are available in markets that require them. We generally like to keep our screen clean, but if there is demand, we will definitely consider it.

ENTERTAINMENT

Getting to know the new Spider-Man

LOS ANGELES—There's a high school hallway scene in "The Amazing Spider-Man" in which Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone evoke the giddiness of young love.

In an interview in Cancun recently, we asked Andrew how Emma, as an actress, helped bring out the flustered kid in him experiencing first love in that scene.

"We've all experienced that love," said Andrew who plays Peter Parker to Emma's Gwen Stacy. "It's the greatest, most thrilling and terrifying thing. Before you have a child or get married, that is the first big thing that we all go through as human beings. We know the feelings so well. I remember very clearly when I fell in love for the first time."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahvee U. Nepuadez

Dating Emma

Then the actor talked about his crush—urbane, insubordinately he started dating in real life after meeting her on the set—in the much-awaited "Spider-Man" reboot directed by Marc Webb. "Emma, as an actress, is so present and kind of unflinching. She doesn't let you off the hook, even. You turn scenes allowed to be false with her in the scene. She will not let you veer and I join in. So, the scenes with you and she stays right there with you. There's something very intense and very exciting about it ... She brings out the joy and lightness out of intense shit scenes."

ANDREW Garfield, who was in the cast of "The Social Network," plays Peter Parker in "The Amazing Spider-Man."

One love actor

Andrew wrote a short story with a black and white ghost of a young boy that surprisingly turned out to be Michael J. Fox.

"He's one of my favorite actors of all time," Andrew explained. "A very sweet girl who came to see the play I was doing ('Death of a Salesman') saw me as the stage door. She knows I'm a big fan of Michael and made me this T-shirt. I thought it might be nice for her to see it being photographed. Michael is an inspiration to me. I love him as an actor and he seems like a fantastic human being ... I like the T-shirt."

Adores Spider-Man movies

Born in Los Angeles and raised in England, Andrew said that he adores the Spider-Man movies, which starred Tobey Maguire. It has been reported that Andrew truly is a fan of the web-slinging hero, as a three-year-old he used to wear a Spider-Man costume.

He said, "Tobey will always be my Peter Parker. The way I look at it, is that we are the next chapter and we are all part of the same family. We all fall under the umbrella of Spider-Man. Sam Raimi and Steve Ditko created something that is much greater than any of its parts. I'm excited to see what the next installments will be as my kids can be introduced to this character in a way that is exciting for them."

Tobey himself was said to have e-mailed one of the producers of "The Amazing Spider-Man" to say that Andrew was "a good choice" as the new actor to play the superhero.

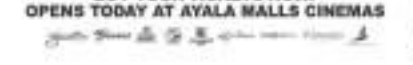
Heroic instincts

Asked if he has heroic instincts, Andrew replied: "We all have those impulses. Sometimes you get beaten up like Peter Parker does before he gets his power. I've gone through a situation where it ended up

SEE PAGE 2

"I WAS a geeky teen, so I have a physical hurdle [to] this movie," says Andrew Garfield.

THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JUNE 28, 2012



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PARADE OF LIGHTS IN TACLOBAN

THIS YEAR'S celebration of the Sangyan Pentecste Tacloban City today unveils 3 parade of lights units from the traditional fiesta lights and sounds marked by colorful costumes, upbeat music and street dancing.

Some 20 elaborate floats will showcase Tacloban City's history as it relives its evolution, abundant marine life, development and achievements, and the dreams and aspirations of people working together for a bright future.

These sets of sparkling lights in various colors will adorn the floats carrying the following: pagodas and Chinese artifacts from the pre-Spanish era; galleons from the Spanish colonial period; World War II military tanks from the US armed forces; the seal of Tacloban City; fun jeepney designs, airplanes and trains; flowers, butterflies, bees, lady bugs, caterpillars and turtles; "bird cabugs," dolphins, angel fish and other marine life; and a swan to represent Tacloban. A separate float will carry Miss Tacloban.

Opening Today

The Amazing Spider-Man

Directed by Marc Webb; stars Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans, Sally Field, Martin Sheen, Denis Leary, Irfan Khan, Campbell Scott

Classic follows rock-singing superhero (Garfield) as a teenager who is investigating the mysterious disappearance of his parents. He's also Board Hook; really it's a "spunky chick, outwitting ... no-nonsense type of fresh and familiar chemistry." The Hollywood Reporter's Jocelyn Minter agrees: "Creeping back into the screen with a new cast, crew ... and a whole new set of daddy issues ... [it] reboots the top-grossing filmed franchise to altogether satisfying results." Sally Hall's Christopher Tooker classified it as "more than just pieces of corporate filmmaking, but nothing more."

Getting to know...

Previous page

hosting our Intramurals. I'm a skinny guy. If I'm stepping in a room with a bunch of big guys, that's going to end in disaster even if you try to appeal to that bad boy nature. That's why I related to Peter because he felt that way, too. He always felt like he wanted to do the right things, to protect people and himself, but he didn't have the power to do it. Then he gets the power. It's heavy. Fulfillment and it becomes even exciting."

Preparing to have more offbeat to spiders I have days. Andrew said that when he finds out on his bed, "I try and be as human as possible. I try and just hurl them out the window. I have empathy for spiders now that I didn't have before."

Being an orphan

While revealing that his own father, "great, he is no parent" as his life, Andrew pointed that he can identify with Peter, who was orphaned early. "That was one of the amazing things about exploring the character—the confusion of that orphanhood," he said. "I think that is one point, we all had that feeling of being dropped, of being alone and helpless."

Andrew added, "There's a wonderful link between Peter as an orphan who becomes a hero, and a father figure to an outcast son. There's something so incredible about that because here's a guy who couldn't have a father and which left a huge gaping hole in him."

On filling the metaphorical holes in his life, Andrew said: "At the Call Me to Your Town Warrior song 'On the Road to Find Out' part, 'Be careful but not that so why not take a look now? That is everything, really. All the external stuff—all the photos that you have, the awards, all the reviews, awards ... There's always going to be a hole in that bucket that you keep topping up. We all know that. It's just hard to do but exciting to try."

Lest we get too committed on a serious book here, Andrew, the member that the hostage shown is to it Costume, especially of Spider-Man swinging through, underlines Hawkeye's skyscrapers, was impressive. Andrew's background prepared him well for all that dangling around.

A former gymnast

"I was a gymnast before, so I have a physical facility that I like to use," Andrew said. "I felt really comfortable. There was the safe comic-book element and it seems like a thing more than you'd get from playing a game of rugby or football."

With a grin, Andrew admitted, however, that "the bruises hurt, especially in the crotch."

E-mail the columnist at rmagsaysay_1000@yahoo.com. Review him at http://www.facebook.com/magsaysaylen

1st Sineng Pambansa film...

Previous page

Jessica Soho.

The festival films in the festival lineup are John Dizon and Mercedes' "Ang Mga Awtang," Sigfred Barros-Sanchez's "Ang Higa Kadugtong sa Buntot Lawin," Rosay Feldescu's "Pinkwhale," Mark Alvlor Reyes-Zercate's "Bwaya," Jose Sola Ney's "Kapag Sa Pandesal Ang Sabungan," Perfecto Ansot Alfred Hi's "Si Bongka Ha Ti Ang Dunia Dagiti," Jerrold Tarrazon Espino's "Sunday Kuna," Agustin Paguaco's "Malaya," Gutierrez Pangansinan III's "Operasala," Ed Lejano's "Quezon," and Gerard Salonga's "Sandata."

The documentaries include Jesse Jaluzon's "Bulig," Dominador Lorenzo Jr.'s "Jingle Lang ang Pelikula," Pepper Mirkowski's "Blancmond By" and Rommel Tolentino's "Tagaan: The Ennis of Sulu."

The short animated films are "Kalan" by Mervin Malonzo and "Si Pagong at si Matsing" by Carmen del Prado, Dirk Evangelista and Max Jamerlan.

The awarding of winners is on July 1.

E-mail rmagsaysay@inquirer.com.ph

1st Sineng Pambansa film festival opens today in Davao

By Marinel R. Cruz

AWARD-WINNING director Brillante Mendoza and United Nations personnel to the Philippines Herve Thomas Jr. are the special guests at the 2012 Sineng Pambansa Festival of Film Festival which opens tonight in Davao City.

The five-day festival is the flagship component of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP). It will run until July 3.

A special screening of recent hits from Mendoza's label Sine Olivia Productions, will highlight the opening night.

"Supporting local film festivals is an important component in the promotion of Philippine cinema," Mendoza, who won the 2009 Cannes best director award for "Kinatay," told the Inquirer. "I believe in Batocis (Studio, FDCP chief) Rico on action front."

"The Woods," shot on location in Tawi-Tawi, features international award-winning actress Nora Aunor in the lead role.

According to executive director Teodoro Gumabon, the festival will screen 17 films selected from the National Film Competition, which the council rolled out last year.

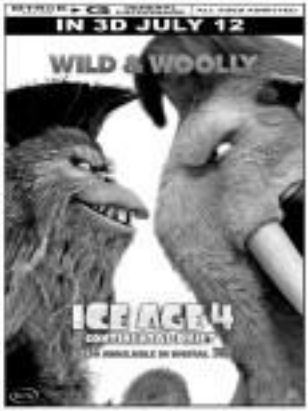
"The contest received about 100 entries consisting of full-length features, documentaries and animated shorts from all over the country. Those finalists were given seed money to finish their films," Gumabon said in a statement.

The films will be screened at SM City Davao, Abreeza, C-Mall and NCCC Mall, for added.

Also part of the Sunday event is the inauguration of FDCP's Davao Cinematheque, which was donated by the city government headed by Mayor Sarah Duterte.

Gumabon said that a commemorative statue of the late National Artist for Film Lino Brocka will be unveiled at the Cinematheque's inauguration tonight.

The statue was designed and executed by Filipino sculptor



MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
4: BIANAT DORA/ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

GREENBELT 1
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

GREENBELT 2
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARQUEE
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARKET MARKET
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

TRINOMA
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
5: BIANAT DORA/ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

ABREEZA
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2D)
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: BIANAT DORA & THE TEARS OF ISIS/IA

HARBOR POINT
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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GREENBELT
Johnny Walker Pop-Up Store
June 28/Greenbelt 5 Fountain Walk

MARKET MARKET
Pure Skin
June 28-July 1/Activity corner

TRINOMA
Automatic Appliance Fair
June 18-July 1/Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Metrobank Prize Redemption Center
Japanese Food Fair, Accessories and Appliances, Jewelry, Digicam and Electronics, June 28/Activity Center

MARIKINA
Abenson's Appliance Fair
June 15-July 1/Activity Center

ABREEZA
Toolbox Fair
June 28-July 1/Activity corner

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A LIFESTYLE GUIDE

Falling in love with contemporary Italian furniture

Furnitalia celebrates 10th year with a new building in Global City

By Raquel Gamos

A FAVORITE destination of the style professionals and furniture enthusiasts, Furnitalia is a three-story building on 30th St. and Rizal Drive in Bonifacio Global City. The iconic building houses a showcase of the best Italian furniture brands and products as literally thousands of high-quality Italian furniture and furnishings with impressive details and make are featured in 2,500 square meters of showroom space covering three stories.

Established by Florence Kovatch her husband William in 2002, Furnitalia has the distinction of being the exclusive Philippine distributor of many of Italy's top furniture and home design brands.

"We first and premier Italian lifestyle store in the country, recently celebrated our 10th anniversary on June 22 with a grand evening bash aptly called 'Encore' held at the Furnitalia building. Encore is means "a decade" in Italian and highlights the extended, design-centric philosophy of Furnitalia.

It was attended by a guest list that featured many of the country's top personalities in media, design, politics, and industry including the brilliant Ambassador H.E. Luca Fornelli, our guest of honor, and his lovely wife Silvana.

"Be party was also the event where the new look and grand renovation of the Furnitalia building—which was done by none other than international designer Ed Wingfield, a multi-awarded architect and interior designer, to—was held.

"It's been an amazing 10 years," says Florence, who serves as the managing director and co-owner of Furnitalia. "So our 10th year, we wanted to have a grand celebration to show our appreciation to everyone who supported Furnitalia through the years. We plan to have a lot of promos and events all year long."

"When we started a decade ago, a lot of people here never even heard of some of our brands, or considered having Italian furniture in our options. Today many of our customers regularly come back because they've fell in love with the exceptional craftsmanship and design of Italian furniture," says Florence.

Love at first sight

Florence says the main reason why she established Furnitalia was the same reason why customers keep coming back to her shops: it was love at first sight.

"More than 10 years ago, William and I were looking for pieces to furnish our new house. We visited several local stores, but while some of those had great pieces, their selection was either limited, or their furniture was a mix of different styles."

Eventually, husband and wife could be direct find what they were looking for in Italy, during a holiday break. While touring the lovely and beautiful spots of the country known for art, culture, fashion, sophistication, and taste. "It never immediately fell in love with Italian modern contemporary furniture.

"We fell in love with it not just because of its quality and design, but also because many of the collections seamlessly complemented each other well, creating a very distinct, very sophisticated style. So we thought 'what if' are considering this experience of Italian furniture for Philippine clients?' And the rest was history."

Furnitalia's first location was on Gamboa, but moved to Greenhills, Inc. Ave. in 2006, Furnitalia established its flagship showroom in only Antipolo.

FLORENCE Kovatch Italian brands expo.

Without fear it knows for its exquisite craftsmanship and beautiful Pelle Pura leather, exhibits on two company Cassina is confirmed for its Maralunga collection made by legendary Italian designers.

Italian designs has also for sought style to the outdoors. Today is famous for its classic, weather-resistant teak wood collections, while four-year-sweet contemporary furnishings

PAGING 6

FLORENCE Ko, Furnitalia owner

in 2011, one of the most upscale and fastest-growing commercial and residential districts in the country.

Leading purveyor

From a niche market, Furnitalia was able to make the business into a thriving industry and despite all the new competitors around, it still remains the leading purveyor of the very best Italian furniture.

Today Furnitalia boasts of over 40 Italian and some European brands in its portfolio, which includes many of the top brands in home design and also the widest and most complete range of luxury furnishings in the country, comprising everything from the living room and bedroom to the kitchen, office, and even outdoor lighting.

Poised to stay at Italy's top makers, Gio-ponti offers elegant contemporary and classical furnishings for boutique and hotels. Flexform is uncontested and models by designer Giorgio Asnago this contemporary and

homeworld

kitchenlinen must-haves

kitchen classic prints

cupcake prints

cup and saucer prints

teapot and kettle prints

Available in selected branches

DEPARTMENT STORE

Change your bedroom linen to suit varying moods

THE BEDROOM is considered one's personal sanctuary within the home—a place to recharge after a gruelling day at work, and a haven where one can enjoy the company of a loved one in the most relaxing atmosphere.

It is therefore understandable why many people put much effort into making their bedrooms beautiful, some even renovating every few years. The downside of makeovers though, is that it's not only expensive, it's a tedious task as well.

Sheridan, the famous Australian brand for beautiful and high-quality bed linens, offers the most practical solution: Change your bed sheets according to mood.

Apart from being very easy to do, changing your linens depending on preference not only adds a personal touch to one's bedroom, it also creates instant character to any space. And with Sheridan's newest collection, one is assured of designs that are sure to entertain and inspire one's tired, worn imagination.

For those who want to make a bold yet refined statement in their bedrooms, Tuscott, part of Sheridan's Italian collection, is a dramatic piece of bedroom art that depicts the classic picture of a large scale, hand painted landscape.

Focusing on a double size overflowing with flowers, the scene opens up to a balcony sunset through a romantic archway, framed in tones of cream and olives, the low rolling hills and soft banks of cloud that **maximus** complete the backdrop. The design is painted in what's considered the world's softest canvas—400-thread count Egyptian cotton.

Marquee on the other hand, documents the soft beauty of an English garden, with paint watercolor paintings in print. Lilies are placed on linen among a neutral background—creating a serene bedroom experience. Adding beauty to the linens is the new innovation of Pinstitched fabric, a luxurious blend of Luxeing Modal and Tencel that's perfect for smooth and sensitive skin.

Fitfully adds a modern twist to the classic animal print with its clean, contemporary lines in shades of silver grey. The 300 percent cotton sateen is also a bed linen with shades of silver grey. That 300 percent cotton sateen is also a bed linen with shades of silver grey. That 300 percent cotton sateen is also a bed linen with shades of silver grey. That

VFF garners more fans with its very friendly footwear

Vibram FiveFingers 2012 collection launched

MORE and more Filipinos are beginning to appreciate the benefits of wearing Vibram FiveFingers (VFF), the most innovative and beneficial footwear ever to enter the market. Now, VFF fans have more reasons to celebrate their newfound appreciation for the brand as it introduces its 2012 Spring/Summer Collection in a recent launch that was well attended by the who's-who of Philippine showbiz and sports.

Held at the breathtaking Sky Lounge that overlooks the cosmopolitan environment of Bonifacio Global City, the Brazilian-themed exclusive event gathered famous personalities who were there not only to partake of the delicious cocktails and food but also to see the latest models of the footwear.

Bambi Harper Inc., Philippine franchise holder of Vibram FiveFingers, through its president and CEO Carlos Abad and staff, welcomed the various guests who witnessed the unveiling of the newest collections.

Television host and sports-enthusiast Bamboo Fernandez hosted the afternoon affair, which gathered athletes, music and television celebrities, and other health, sports and fashion media personalities.

Custom-wear ushered in and wore their own pair of Vibram FiveFingers Sorocaba, which most of them tested during the event.

Among those seen were Filipina-Colombia Aide Bambao-Albert Tarceng, Tsunami Jr., comedian and Bonna Bell Rosario-Melly, and drama actor and runner Gerard Pizarras and wife Jan Marini Alano. Also there in head-turning wear were reality show Biggest Loser contestants Angela Lagunzad, Art Mendoza and Rhey Bautista.

Noted Philippine athletes and fitness advocates sports and fitness personalities also graced the launch, such as members of the Philippine Dragon Boat Team; triathletes Jessa Evans Encinas, Fonsmalle Tigers coach Julio Atienza, Petron Blaze's Bob Reyes, runner Col. Miles Legaspi, commercial model and cardio Hunks Eden, and other well-turned names in the field of cigarettes, basketball, marathon and other sports.

Feet care

Long-time VFF users also shared their experiences with the footwear. The world record-holding Philippine Dragon Team even spoke of how VFF takes care of their feet during training and recuperation days.

Realizing true lifelong spoke of how we are able to survive the trying conditions in a far-flung island in Palawan with the help of his VFF shoes, and eventually was declared winner in the latest edition of Survivor Philippines. Filipina surfing coach Lorena Lapitz also spoke of how VFF helped her especially when nothing in sight with coral and rock.

Aside from testimonials, close to the event were also treated to a demonstration of the Brazilian martial martial art capoeira lead by experts Joseph Bagalacsa and Miss Gomes de Reis. It was also the perfect opportunity to extend the winners of the "Why I Really Love My VFFs" video-making contest, who received cash prizes and gift packs.

Love VFF videos

Ahead together with host Rovillson handed the prizes to the winners, whose works really earned the admiration of the judges for embodying the sports and healthy lifestyle philosophy that comes with wearing a VFF.

First prize winner Jeff Ilaneon's video showed an athlete who wore his VFFs from road to trail. Second prize winner Carlito Jose "Mako" Mercado let the viewers see how VFF works from the perspective of the barefoot runner. And third prize winner Ed Apolinario showed how VFFs changed the way he runs and how he trains.

Like its previous models, the newest 2012 line carries a unique patented Vibram TC-1 performance rubber that delivers excellent "feel-for" without compromising abrasion resistance. VFFs are also available in breathable mesh or dry.

A fashionable take on the FiveFingers Classic, the Classic Fresco for women comes with an element of style to the model that propelled the brand. Designed for barefoot balance and agility, it has a lightweight, stretch upper with a mesh pull-tab that allows you to attach the supplied for an adjustable, secure fit. A hook-and-loop closure holds the tab in place.

Unlike any running shoe on the market today, the FiveFingers Bikila was the first model designed specifically for a more natural, healthy and efficient barefoot stride. The Bikila offers more placing protection, and distributes barefoot impact without compromising important ground feedback essential to a proper barefoot strike running form.

Following in the footsteps of the FiveFingers Bikila, the Bikila LS for women offers a closed speed lace system to accommodate a wider foot or higher instep. It shares the same revolutionary platform as the Bikila to provide superior placing, protection and also fosters barefoot impact without compromising essential ground feedback.

The first trail running specific models, the Spyridon and Spyridon LS provide the perfect balance of "feel-for" and protection on rugged outdoors, as its soles have a stitched-in polyurethane insole that protects the skin and foot, and a molded nylon mesh in midsole that adds a "rock-block" effect, dispersing impact over a wider area.

Those who attended the launch have entered to the comfort and durability of this amazing but comfortable alternative to the conventional shoes and slippers that they have grown accustomed to.

Now, they are not only proudly wearing VFF on their feet, they are also promoting it to people of no other lifestyle like many of us. Truly, Vibram FiveFingers is every man's VFF—very friendly footwear!

Vibram FiveFingers is available at SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Trinoma, Planet Sports Bluebwell, Wizard Greenhills, Westport and Glorietta4. Toby's (Mall of Asia and Ilumpet Lo), Runex (BGC, Trinoma and Ayala Center's Cebu), SOLEMATE, Urban Athletics Greenbelt and Chinese Direct. For more information, call 843-3658 or e-mail marketing@barefootwear-inc.com. Also, visit www.vibramfivefingers.ph.

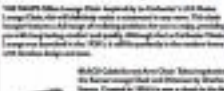
OUR HOME'S IT LIST:
MODERN VINTAGE CHAIRS

Modern Vintage Chairs are seen in the hot seat, staying on top of Our Home's list.

The chair, one of the most common and practical pieces of furniture in your home, has excellently reinvented throughout the years. Many styles of vintage chairs have in their base, some iconic, reminiscent of bygone eras and trends.

Our Home, this lifestyle store that offers great designs at great prices, takes inspiration from mid-century pieces like the Tulip Chair, the Egg Chair, and the Wassily Chair in its collection of modern vintage accent chairs.

Timeless yet trendy, iconic yet innovative, the Modern Vintage Chair Collection is available at Our Home SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, and SM North EDSA Interior Zone. Designs may vary per store. Also visit our website www.ourhome.ph.



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Customers may get the free Philips headset up front by submitting the photocopy of the sales invoice or original purchase receipt along with the serial number cut-out from the printer box and a photocopy of two valid ID's to Direct Minds Integrated Consultancy Inc. To avail of the SODEXO GCs, customers may present the sales invoice of the toner purchases and the HP LaserJet printer purchase, together with the cut-out of the hologram on the toner box, and a photocopy of two valid ID's. Printer and toner must be in only one sales invoice or original receipt. They also have a choice on submitting requirements to any BIC branch via sealed envelope, complete with mailing address and contact number.

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Return of the khakis

New generation pants for today's cosmopolitan men

By Joel Nigos

EVERY day of the week can indeed be challenging. Tasks need to be completed, and situations can turn from manageable to stressful. Today's cosmopolitan men need to arrive to survive. And having clothes that can cope with the changing moods would be most appreciated.

Khakis from Dockers provide a myriad of ways "to get yourself together" and conquer these challenges with relative ease and zeal – be it an optimistic Monday start, a 9:30-orbachic Tuesday, a Wednesday-defining [illegible] or a work-cum-play Thursday, a mad deadline-beating Friday, an easy-going recreational Saturday, or the essential R&R Sunday.

"Men face different kinds of challenges every day, and the desire to be effective to accomplishing tasks or getting work done is universal. Men need to be confident and in control with skillful changes of direction, have exclusive khakis that equip to conquer it," said Bert Stancombe, Dockers customer-care director for Asia. "Dockers celebrating the real men of action this season believes that alive all...for the men of action, Dockers owns the day every day."

Dockers has embodied the spirit of khaki for more than a quarter of a century. Since 1986, it has been perfecting khakis—and the essential goods to go with them...for men and women all over the world.

New series

Its new 2012 spring collection is an inspired collection, reflecting the resilient, resourceful and hard-working real men of action. It is for and about the men who cherish unique skills, passions and value to the world. This offers more variety of choice from the popular Alpha Khakis, the dependable Weavers' Series and the staple Signature Khakis.

Successfully launched last season, Dockers' Alpha Khakis are gaining traction among the new generation of khaki users who see the value of a khaki that is built from a dress pant block using denim construction. It is an easy alternative to their favorite denim.

The look features a refined, simple and comfortable Alpha Khaki that fits any occasion. It will have more color choices, from smoky blue to more daring colors like flame and paper white. Dockers' Alpha Khaki is the new generation of khaki for the next generation of men.

The Pleatless Series, meanwhile, is packed with performance benefits like stain protection, wrinkle free and permanent crease, providing worry free comfort from eat-up to sundown. It offers classic styling with unmatched comfort—a simple choice when deciding to meet a client at the boardroom or at the golf course.

Signature Khakis is simply a staple with its either well and linear weave. In its offers more variety...there is the Classic Fit, Straight Fit and for those who can, a Slim Fit.

Rising popularity

During the mid-'80s, Dockers hit $1 billion in sales as the brand was launched worldwide including the Philippines. A 1995 research even showed that in the US, eight out of 10 men wore Dockers trousers. A decade later, khakis became the initial choice for teenagers as the dozen-buy look took a hold of the fashion industry for both men and women.

Khaki's revival was seen in Sweden in late 2007 as teenagers who hung out after classes were also spotted wearing khakis during weekends as an alternative to denims. Also, makeup khakis took again. Two years later in 2009, the exclusive Dockers K-1 Limited Edition range of pants for the once khaki connoisseur was launched.

As the khaki comeback became full-blown, so did the demand for newer fabrications. Among the new fits that were introduced included the Dockers D-luxe Jeans fits 5% and the Dockers Bazer Fit just within a span of 12 months, the Dockers K-1 Khaki and D-Lite were embroidered, while other everyday styles also emerged including the Dockers Cargo, Slough Tapered and single pleated pant in a range of khaki and non-khaki styles.

Last year, Dockers made its boldest move to-date with its launch of Dockers Alpha Khaki as an alternative to denim. Also, makeup khakis took again. Two years later in 2009, the exclusive Dockers K-1 Limited Edition range of pants for the once khaki connoisseur was launched.

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Last year, Dockers made its boldest move to-date with its launch of Dockers Alpha Khaki as an alternative to denim with its slogan "Where Jeans End and Khakis Begin."

FROM left, Robert Reynolds, Dockers commercial director for Asia with lawyer Noel Obingayan, winner of the BHP! Ride for the Dockers Summer Collection promo

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